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OPINION METER

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Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

I N S I D E

MJ's Will

Michael Jackson's will gives guardianship over his children to his mother and leaves all his assets in a trust fund.



LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

127 alien workers who sued Labor given TWAs. **PAGE 2**
NOAA awards \$3M to DEQ to protect Laolao coral. **PAGE 6**

16 new ferry trips to Tinian



- Senate confirms reappointment of CPA board member
- Parking fee at Saipan domestic airport to be waived
- Sablan reports \$10,000 toll booth losses

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
An employee of Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. walks past a ferry about to leave for Tinian, at the Saipan seaport yesterday afternoon. Starting Sunday, residents and tourists will see increased ferry trips between the two islands.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Starting Sunday, residents and tourists will be able to get at least 16 additional ferry trips between Saipan and Tinian. At present, there are only six ferry trips between the two islands and only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

See **FERRY** on Page 4

AFTER AGGREKO CONTRACT IN SEPTEMBER:

Lack of personnel may hamper CUC

Admin pushes hiring of non-US citizens for CUC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



Reyes

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been able to hire only three of 16 employees needed for its power plant, even as it recently lost three other power plant workers, and this lack of technical experts could become a problem for CUC after Ag-

greko International's contract ends on Sept. 12.

This is among the key points in Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's latest extension of the declaration of a state of disaster emergency for CUC on Tuesday.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes separately said yesterday that the Legislature must allow CUC to hire non-

See **LACK** on Page 4

Senate junks House's \$162.82M budget cap

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate rejected yesterday the House concurrent resolution that caps the fiscal year 2010 budget at 162.82 million, mainly due to a new provision for an additional \$1.69 million obligation.

The senators briefly debated whether to reject the

See **SENATE** on Page 4

Guam has first swine flu case

Guam recorded yesterday its first confirmed case of H1N1 infection, commonly known as swine flu, according to a statement issued by the island's Office of the Acting Governor.

The affected individual, a federal employee on Andersen Air Force Base, had returned from a trip to Texas and exhibited

See **SWINE FLU** on Page 4



BACK ON ISLAND

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan talks to reporters at a news briefing yesterday at his office in Susupe, where he announced a \$2.9M federal grant for the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality to protect the Laolao Bay coral reef. Among other things, Sablan said the CNMI's presence in the U.S. Congress is being felt, and that priority issues are federalization, funding and control over submerged lands which is being addressed in his H.R. 934. He also calls on the Friends of the Monument, the Fitial administration, and the Legislature to come together on issues surrounding the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Sablan, who is on island for the 4th of July festivities, said the law is clear that federalization takes effect on Nov. 28, but he would like to see Chinese and Russian tourists included in the visa waiver program. See **related story** on Page 6.



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Local

'Issue TWAs to 127 alien workers who sued Labor'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has ordered the Department of Labor to issue temporary work authorizations to each of the 127 alien workers who sued the Department of Labor and its officials for not enforcing Labor administrative awards.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman granted the workers' request for an order to the Labor Director to issue TWAs to each plaintiff, pending a review of their lawsuit.

Robert Myers, lawyer for the

127 workers, made the request during a recent motion hearing. Labor did not object.

Wiseman set the next hearing in the case for July 9 at 1:30pm.

Public Law 15-108 provides that a nonresident worker may request a court order directing the Labor Director to issue a TWA if that foreign national worker is pursuing a claim or case in the CNMI court system.

"While such a request is not well known about, it is something that every foreign national worker should ask their lawyer to request for them [if they're in the court system]," Myers told

Saipan Tribune yesterday.

The TWA, he said, is essentially an "unlimited" one while the case is pending in court, even if the alien worker is not able to find a job after receiving an initial TWA.

"I don't believe the Department of Labor likes that reality but that's what the law provides. And it makes sense, given that question of how a foreign national worker is to support themselves and their loved ones," Myers said.

A total of 127 alien workers who sued their former employers for wage and over-

time violations and had been awarded damages by Labor filed the petition for judicial review in court.

In the petition, Myers asked the court to compel Labor and its officials to enforce the surety's obligations under the statutory labor bonds.

Labor special counsel Deanne Siemer had denied that the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 requires Labor to collect awards made in the administrative orders issued in Labor cases.

But Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, in a separate but similar

consolidated small claims, had ruled that it is Labor's job to enforce these claims.

Inos' ruling prompted Labor to change its policy of referring alien workers with administra-

tive awards to the small claims court. Labor has been notifying alien workers with administrative awards to report to the Labor Hearing Office to register their bond claims.

Fund OKs adjusting formula for calculating retirement payments

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court ruling that favored the Retirement Fund in its case against the CNMI government has prompted the Fund's board of trustees to adjust its present formula in determining the retirement contributions and deficiencies of members.

In yesterday's special board meeting, Fund trustees adopted the March 2006 period as its base in calculating the contribution of retiring members, instead of the current method of basing it from the time payment was suspended by the government last year.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo earlier ruled that the Fund is owed damages amounting to \$231.6 million by the central government. He also found Public Law 15-15 unconstitutional, saying it illegally diminished and impaired the accrued benefits of the Fund.

P.L. 15-15 suspended the payment of all government obligations to the Fund in fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Board chair Juan T. Guerrero and Fund administrator Mark Aguon said yesterday that the change in the Fund's formula will fix a number of problems for the Fund.

The new base, however, will still reflect the amount the CNMI government owes the Fund.

"The amount owed is the same...we're just fixing the date," Aguon said, adding that this way they can protect the Fund's assets without penalizing members.

Saipan Tribune learned that 13 government employees have submitted retirement applications and are now being reviewed by the Fund. The new "formula" is expected to be applied to them first.

Using the new formula will

give the Fund better stand on other issues that may arise concerning retirement contributions and deficiency issues, Guerrero said.

A resolution adopted by the board last year suspended the processing of new retirees until such time that their employers make a full payment on their share of retirement contributions.

'No new investment in 10 yrs.'

Board chair Guerrero disclosed yesterday that the Fund did not have any new significant investments in the last 10 years as a result of the central government's delinquent payments.

But now that the government will be forced to pay, Guerrero said the Fund intends to use portions of it in new investments.

"That's the plan...because no significant new investments were made in the last 10 years," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said pension obligation to members remains one of its top priorities when it collects the \$231.6 million.

Since the court ruling on Monday, Guerrero said no "formal" negotiations have been made between the two parties.

He stressed that the trustees are open to negotiating a payment plan that would not bankrupt the government.

"We will work with the government on the payment plan. It's not our intention to disrupt the central government's operation. In deciding for the payment, we want to look at the budget, available resources, and other assets of this government," he said.

The judge's ruling is substantially higher than the \$215 million the Fund says the CNMI government owes it; the CNMI government admits owing \$213 million.

Families asked to host KSKK students

The KSKK Students Exchange Program from Japan will be arriving on July 24 and will be on island through July 31, 2009.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is asking residents, especially families who have children that have participated in the KSKK Students Exchange Program in the past, to welcome the Japanese students by

bringing them into their home throughout the duration of their stay on the island.

Anyone who would like to sponsor a student may call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6280 or 6208 during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, and ask for Jemalyn T. Tenorio, Youth Services Coordinator or Tony A. Benavente. (PR)

LIBERATION DAY SPECIALS



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FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2010:

84 on Head Start wait list

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

About 84 children are on the CNMI Head Start program's wait list and most are from Saipan villages, according to program director Keiko Yamagata. On top of this challenge, six of the program's staff transferred to other schools this school year due to higher pay.

Yamagata also disclosed during Tuesday's special Board of Education meeting that the program closed the school year with an enrollment of 462, as mandated by its federal granting agency.

Of the 462 kids, 90 percent will transition to the kindergarten program, Yamagata said, while only about 10 percent will stay for another year at Head Start.

Saipan Tribune learned that it is only in cases of withdrawal from the program that students on the waiting list are accepted, based on who is the next most eligible on the line to replace the dropout.

PSS data shows that 49 children withdrew from the Head Start program during school year 2008-2009, about 10 percent of the 509 total number of children it served last year. Yamagata said relocation was the prime reason for these dropouts.

She reported that the average attendance last school year was 88 percent.

Based on the PSS Facts & Figures for SY 2008-2009, there were a total of 30 staff attending to 462 kids at Head Start, representing a student-to-staff ratio of 1:15.

Saipan Tribune learned that only increased funding will allow permit PSS to add children to the program. Since two years ago, the funded enrollment figure for Head Start dropped from 579 to 462.

Every year the program receives \$1.7 million in federal

funds. However, its local matching fund decreased from almost \$700,000 to just \$350,000.

It was also learned that the program is losing certified and highly qualified personnel to mostly elementary schools. Majority of Head Start service providers are non-highly qualified but many are in the process of obtaining their degrees.

Head Start has a total of 10 centers on three islands: Tinian, Songsong, Sinapalo, Tanapag, Garapan, Oleai, Kagman, Dandan, CK, and San Antonio. Approximately 17 children are being accommodated at every Head Start session.

PSS considers funding as one of the biggest challenges faced by the program. Last Tuesday, the Education Board approved the submission of a federal grant application for Head Start amounting to \$159,768.

PSS Head Start intends to use the funds to build a Head Start center in Koblerville and accommodate 34 additional kids next school year.

"This expansion will increase enrollment by 34 in Koblerville village, which is within the federally approved service areas," the grant application states.

PSS data shows 14 eligible families in Koblerville who registered for program year 2009-2010. While there is no Head Start center in Koblerville, three of 17 private childcare centers on Saipan are located in that village.

The 2005 CMI household, income and expenditure survey report indicated that 48.7 percent of Koblerville families are below the poverty level. Of the 17 villages on Saipan, Koblerville ranks 8th in the number of families below the poverty level.

By adding two classes and two teaching staff in Koblerville, this will bring the total enrollment to 496 children, 11 centers with 16 classrooms, and 51 full time staff.

Man gets 18 mos. prison term for 'ice' possession

The Superior Court has imposed an 18-month prison term on a man who was busted for "ice" trafficking in 2007.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Joseph Matagolai Aldan to five years in prison, all suspended except for 18 months, for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

The 34-year-old Aldan was ordered to start serving his prison term on Aug. 6, 2009. He is expected to complete his sentence on Jan. 29, 2011.

The judge required the defendant to pay a \$2,000 fine, \$500 probation fee, and \$100 court assessment fee.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Aldan with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of a

controlled substance.

Aldan and his counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, signed a plea agreement with the government. Aldan pleaded guilty to one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance. The remaining charges were dismissed.

Assistant attorney general Michael N. Evangelista represented the government in the case.

The plea agreement stated that on Aug. 28, 2007 Aldan unlawfully possessed "ice."

According to court papers, members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration CNMI Task Force used a "confidential asset" in purchasing \$300 worth of "ice" from Aldan on Aug. 28 and 30, 2007. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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4 NMI students win thespian festival awards

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Four Commonwealth students joined the ranks of the nation's best performers at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska last week, which saw the participation of more than 500 students.

Saipan Tribune learned that the tandem of Aisha Joyner and Akeiko Dela

Cruz was adjudged 6th in the international thespian duet acting category, while the team of Sung Yul "Tommy" Baik and Moon Hyo Lee emerged 9th at the festival's mime competition.

Besides these major awards, Kyoung Min (Kay) Park was also lauded for setting a new record for the team by receiving 21 callbacks from college recruiters during the festival.

A total of 19 students and 8 adult chap-

erons formed the 2009 Team for Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands.

All participants flew to the June 24-28 competition in Nebraska and stayed at the Comfort Inn before joining the other states' participants in the University of Lincoln dormitories.

Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands who successfully performed in the weeklong event included Sung Yul Baik, Moon Hyo Lee, Liezel Tipples, Aisha

Joyner, Akeiko Dela Cruz, Miki Nadia Dela Cruz, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Martin, Adeleyah Mojica, Matthew Wheat, Kyoung Min Park, Jackie David, Ray Mark Denora, Tony Bai, Zalika Joyner, Dayanara Flores, Royze Banados, and Reece Brown.

The students held performances in mime, monologues, duet acting, and solo musical.

Besides these competitions, students were also treated to unique opportunities such as gracing a number of stage productions and workshops.

Among these performances were Walt Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; the *Complete Works of William Shakespeare*; and *Forever Placid*.

All 19 students were among the top in their performance areas.

To win a ticket to the national competition, the student must win in the district level, regional, and the state level contests.

SENATE

From Page 1

concurrent resolution or suspend action on it until the Fitial administration provides revised projected revenue for FY 2010 under the Planning and Budgeting Act.

The new provision, which House lawmakers inserted Tuesday, represents the 30 percent hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent alcoholic beverage container tax the CNMI government is being required to pay the NMI Retirement Fund.

Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan) said the House should have not reinstated the hotel occupancy and alcoholic beverage container tax that was suspended by the current budget law, given the current financial deficit.

House members inserted the provision in line with a court ruling ordering the Department of Finance to pay the Fund the hotel occupancy tax and

alcoholic beverage container tax starting August.

During discussion on the resolution, Pangelinan said the Fund didn't sue the Legislature but the Executive Branch, and the latter should meet with lawmakers on how to deal with the court ruling.

Sen. Joseph Mendiola (Cov-Tinian) said the Senate should hold off any action on the resolution until the administration revises its projections.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) said the Senate should also take Pangelinan's side since she heads the Fiscal Affairs Committee.

The Senate voted unanimously to reject the concurrent resolution.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said he will appoint three members to a joint conference committee to work with House members on the concurrent resolution.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), in a phone interview yesterday, said he looks forward to working with senators

on a new concurrent resolution.

"We need to have a timely budget so we should work this out," he said.

Yumul said acting Finance secretary Bob Schrack has not provided revised revenue projections for FY 2010. He said that Finance's revenue projections for years have always been within 10 percent of actual revenue.

On Tuesday, Yumul—after receiving the concerns from House members—amended his resolution to reflect an additional government obligation of \$1.69 million to represent the 30 percent hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent alcoholic beverage container tax that Superior Court Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered Finance to pay the Fund.

The resolution caps the FY 2010 budget at \$162.82 million as submitted by the Fitial administration on April 1. Of this amount, only \$148.81 million is available for general government operations.

The House concurrent resolution is 16-4 HD2.

SWINE FLU

From Page 1

flu-like symptoms.

The case was confirmed yesterday by the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services.

The statement did not identify the gender of the affected person but a *Pacific Daily News* article on its website said it's a woman. Quoting Department of Public Health and Social Services director Peter Roberto, the PDN article says the woman lives in Yigo outside the military base.

The Office of the Acting Governor statement said the department is working with the U.S. Department of Defense to ensure the individual receives appropriate medical attention.

The individual sought medical care at Naval Hospital Guam on June 25 after exhibiting flu-like symptoms. She underwent sampling and was placed on home isolation. The samples were sent to the Navy Health

Research Laboratory in San Diego, which confirmed the H1N1 influenza virus yesterday.

The individual is recovering and continues to remain in isolation, the Office of the Acting Governor statement said.

The PDN report states that three other people who live with the woman were tested and authorities are now awaiting the results.

"One member of the individual's household is experiencing flu-like symptoms and has been placed on antiviral medication. The individual and other members of the household are currently undergoing further medical observation," the Office of the Acting Governor statement said.

No further details were available at press time.

The CNMI Department of Public Health is urging the public not to be alarmed, as there is no confirmed H1N1 case in the CNMI. There is no vaccine yet available for swine flu. The Commonwealth remains on pandemic level Phase 6. (*Saipan Tribune*)

FERRY

From Page 1

With the new schedule, ferry services will run from Sunday to Saturday.

Capt. Antonio M. Sunga Jr., operations manager of Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc., said yesterday the increased ferry trips is partly due to charter flights from China and the resulting increase in passenger traffic between the two islands.

Lin Castro, 22, said the more ferry trips between Saipan and Tinian, the better for both residents and tourists. Castro is among those who frequently travel between the two islands using the ferry because of his job. Even though he gets special rate or free ride, he said he feels for those who have to pay at least \$20 for a one-way ferry ticket.

"The plane fare is also very high. It's like \$42 for one-way ticket, so taking the ferry will be better especially with more trips now. No need to wait longer for the next trip," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sunga said the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Coast Guard will be notified today of the changes in the ferry schedule, while notices to the public will be posted on Friday.

Waiver of parking fee

At the same time, CPA board member Benigno Sablan, whose reappointment to the CPA board was confirmed on an 8-0 vote by the Senate yesterday afternoon, said the parking fee at the Saipan domestic airport is likely to be waived soon.

"The board is cognizant of the economic difficulties facing [domestic] passengers," Sablan told senators who raised their concerns with the parking meters and toll booths at the

Saipan ports.

Sablan will serve a new four-year term, to expire in June 2013. He was appointed by the governor last year to finish the unexpired term of former board member Antonio Camacho. Sablan served the CPA board in August 2008 until the term expired last June 28 this year.

Sen. Paul Manglona (R-Rota) and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) have been separately asking CPA for the waiver of the Saipan airport commuter terminal parking fee for those who only drop off or pick up passengers.

Hofschneider said CPA may consider putting up gaming devices at Rota and Tinian airports to cover for any revenue loss resulting from the waiver in parking fees for those dropping off or picking up Rota or Tinian passengers at the Saipan domestic airport. Sablan said this is being discussed.

"I also have other concerns and questions for CPA and I wish we can get clarification from CPA," Manglona said, upon learning that CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho wouldn't be able to attend the confirmation hearing of both Sablan and another CPA board member, Margaret Prater.

Prater was re-appointed by the governor to CPA after serving the unexpired term of former member Connie Igisomar. Prater's term expired in March.

Toll fee waiver

Sablan said the CPA board is also "considering" waiving the toll fee for those who pick up or drop off passengers at the Saipan seaport, provided they only stay there for a maximum of 15 minutes.

"We're amenable to have the parking space [at the Saipan domestic airport] open because we're losing mon-

ey. We're paying the contractor for it. I say we lose about \$10,000 a year," he said in an interview. He also told senators about the operating loss during his confirmation hearing.

He said the CPA board will convene once chairman Joe Lifofoi comes back from an off-island trip.

Sen. Joseph Mendiola (Cov-Tinian) said he's happy to hear that the CPA board is considering granting waivers to the parking fee and toll booth, especially with increased fares in the ferry.

But a check with the Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. yesterday indicated no recent increase in ferry fare. The last time that the ferry service raised its rates was on May 15, 2008.

Additional schedule

Currently, the only Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. ferry service from Tinian is at 12:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The ferry service from Saipan to Tinian is only at 5pm, also on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc.'s Sunga said the same ferry schedule from Tinian and Saipan will also happen on Sundays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Sunga said starting on Sunday, there will also be morning ferry service from Tinian at 8am on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays.

There will also be morning service from Saipan, at 9:30am, also on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays.

There will also be ferry service on Tuesdays and Saturdays, at 12:01am from Saipan to Tinian, to pick up passengers on charter flights. The ferry service back to Saipan, however, depends on the tourists' schedule. (*With Moneth Deposa*)

LACK

From Page 1

resident workers.

He said CUC can go without Aggreko, and can run its power, water and wastewater systems "but only if it has adequate technical staff."

"CUC has exhausted all reasonable hiring opportunities for U.S. citizens. It needs to hire from the ample regional pool of qualified specialists. But the Legislature tied CUC's hands with an arbitrary limit on qualified foreign workers. If people want decent power, water and wastewater systems, their Legislature must give CUC the freedom to employ the best people at the most effective costs," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since March 2009, for example, CUC has been trying to hire eight mechanics and eight power plant operators.

CUC vigorously recruited locally, but, as of June 30, only three qualified operators have been hired. At the same time CUC lost another three plant employees, who resigned for various reasons.

In his 14-page declaration, the governor said while CUC may be able to bring in entry-level trade assistants, it still needs 16 qualified technical employees to make the production system work.

"This decision to rely on CUC's own generation, at a substantial cost savings for the people of the CNMI, is safe as long as CUC can employ the staff required to manage its system," Fitial said in Executive Order 2009-06.

Aggreko was not bound by the artificial U.S.-only hiring decision presently mandated by CNMI legislation.

"It is rational to expect that CNMI law will change to permit the islands'

key industry to operate rationally, and hire the people essential to providing critical electric, water and wastewater services," the governor said.

Since September last year, Aggreko has been renting out to CUC temporary, diesel-fired power generators that produce about 15 MW.

CUC pays Aggreko a little over \$500,000 every month for the generators. By this week, Aggreko will be able to receive the full \$6 million. The billing due to Aggreko is for the period ending on July 16, for which CUC expects to pay this week. The billings for August and September were already paid in August 2008, when CUC made a three-month deposit to Aggreko, which also covered the first month's billing.

"Aggreko costs CUC and its customers \$500,000 per month. CUC will save that amount when Aggreko generators are no longer in service," Reyes said.

The press secretary said the executive order preserves the CUC executive director's ability to manage CUC in the absence of the difficult-to-find board, as well as the agreement reached by CUC and the Commonwealth Development Authority to finally settle a decade's-old debt.

The governor first declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008 and has since been extending the emergency declaration every month.

The next challenge is in meeting the mandates of a stipulated order that sets requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet. The order represents the agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on providing improved water and sewer services in the CNMI.

Fitial, in his latest declaration, said a "major challenge will be the funding required to fully comply with all federal requirements."

Two men arrested for allegedly beating up passerby

An ex-convict and his companion were arrested for allegedly beating up a man across the post office in Chalan Kanoa Monday night.

Sharp Betao Ngirutoi, 29, an ex-convict, and Etumai Felix Ngiratakau, 48, were arrested for aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery. Two other suspects have not been arrested yet.

The victim, Chinese national Wen Xue Piao, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for multiple injuries. He sustained lacerations on the lips, abrasions to the forearms and left ankle, a lump on the head, and a fractured left collarbone and left cheek. Some of his teeth were knocked out.

Ngirutoi and Ngiratakau were brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$50,000 cash bail for Ngirutoi's temporary liberty and \$15,000 cash bail for Ngiratakau. The judge cited Ngirutoi's numerous criminal convictions in the past 10 years.

Preliminary hearing was set

for July 8 at 9am.

Detective Simon T. Manacop said a witness identified Ngirutoi as one of four suspects who were seen punching and kicking the victim even as he was already lying on the ground.

Manacop said police officers responded to a call about a disturbance in front of the Korean Sports Bar near the post office in Chalan Kanoa at 11:33pm Monday.

Ngirutoi and Ngiratakau, who were still at the scene, were arrested. Ngirutoi had an inch-long cut in the back of his right hand.

Medics transported Piao to CHC.

Ngirutoi told police that Piao was walking in the area and had yelled profanities at him and Ngiratakau. Ngirutoi said the man later returned and swung a knife at them so he fought back and threw a bottle of soju at him.

Ngirutoi said Ngiratakau only pushed Piao.

Piao later told police he was drinking at a friend's house in the area prior to the incident. As he was walking across the post office, one of the suspects approached him and asked for something but he couldn't un-

derstand what the man was saying. Piao said more suspects came and they began beating him up.

Two witnesses aboard a passing car saw four persons beating up Piao. One witness honked the car's horn and yelled at the

suspects to stop beating up the man. When two suspects tried to approach their car, the witnesses left the area.

Ngirutoi has prior arrests for assault, burglary, and for not appearing at a court hearing. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Senators debate bill requiring runoff elections

By ANITA B. HOFSCHEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Senate members spent hours the past two days poring over the nuances of a bill to implement runoff elections in the event that a gubernatorial candidate does not receive a majority of votes. Representatives from the Attorney General's Office and the Commonwealth Election Commission were also present during discussions.

The bill, introduced in the House of Representatives on

Feb. 3, is in response to an initiative passed in the 2007 general election requiring a runoff election for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor if no candidate receives a majority vote.

Major issues that were debated included the counting of absentee ballots on Election Day and the preliminary counting of votes in each of the municipalities.

"All of [the senators] have different concerns," Election Commission director Robert A. Guerrero said yesterday.

Guerrero said that during discussions, Senate President Pete Reyes brought up the possibility of requiring those who fail to vote in the general election to re-register before the runoff election.

But due to the short period of time between the election and the runoff election, Guerrero said he opposed the inclusion of this requirement.

The most recent version of the bill did not include this clause.

According to Guerrero, the current version of the bill requires absentee ballots to be

received by the general election and received no later than 14 days after the runoff election.

It also provides for a mailbox in each senatorial district to allow individuals to cast absentee ballots up to one week before the day of the election.

As of press time, senators were still reviewing technicalities in the bill and debating possible amendments.

If passed, the bill will be sent to the House for further consideration.

The bill is House Bill 16-220, HSI, SD1, HD3, SD2.

Senators support Congress bill to grant submerged lands to CNMI

By ANITA B. HOFSCHEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The CNMI Senate junked yesterday a resolution that asks the federal government to clean up toxic substances left behind by the bombing exercises on Farallon de Medinilla before the U.S. Congress passes the bill that would grant the CNMI control over its submerged lands.

Two members voted yes to Senate Resolution 16-38, five members voted no, and one member abstained.

Most senators said the resolution could impede the passage of H.R. 934 in Congress. That bill seeks to give the CNMI similar benefits enjoyed by Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa over their submerged lands.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo, who introduced the resolution on June 15, stated his concern about the impact of the military live-fire releases on citizens' livelihood.

"I am worried that one day the people of Tanapag cannot fish," Crisostimo said.

But it was the mention of H.R. 934 that caused Senate members to shoot down the bill.

"I'm very concerned... that it may jeopardize the process [of passing H.R. 934]," said Sen. Felix T. Mendiola.

Instead, the senators expressed their support of H.R. 934 by adopting Resolution 16-39, which also supports preserving the Commonwealth government's joint management role in the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.

Six members voted yes, one member voted no, and one member abstained.

Resolution 16-39 was introduced by Sen. Felix T. Mendiola on July 1.

Senators recognized that the intent of Crisostimo's resolution was worth pursuing.

"Any leftover ordnance... should be the responsibility of the federal government," said Sen. Joseph Mendiola.

But he said the pursuit of that goal should not be tied to H.R. 934.



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NOAA awards \$3M to DEQ to protect Laolao coral

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality will receive a grant of \$2,990,919 for work around Laolao Bay to protect coral reefs there, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in an announcement Tuesday in Washington D.C.

DEQ was one of only 50 applicants to win some of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money that NOAA awarded and the Laolao Bay restoration project was one of only two territories that will be receiving millions to protect coral reef and address sources of sedimentation. Over 800 local agencies nationwide competed for the grant funds.

"We can all be very proud and grateful for the exceptional work that director Frank Rabauliman, Frances Castro, Kath-

leen Herrmann, Brian Bearden, James Callier, and all the people of DEQ did to put together this proposal," said CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

He said the Recovery Act Congress passed in February should bring approximately \$90 million in formula grants to the Northern Mariana Islands.

"But, in addition, there is a huge potential for more money through competitive grants. And DEQ has proved that we have the ability to be very successful in going after those extra Recovery Act funds," said Sablan. "The money that DEQ is bringing to the Northern Marianas will create jobs and provide immediate stimulus to our economy, and by protecting one of our most important natural resources also protect the future

of our tourism industry 30 to 50 years from now."

DEQ estimates the grant will create 75 jobs directly and another 32 jobs indirectly in the tourism industry. DEQ will use the grant to restore 15 acres of upland habitat, road upgrades, drainage improvements, and elimination of unsustainable beach activities. This will reduce the sediment that now runs off into the water and smothers the living coral.

DEQ director Rabauliman said he is very proud of the staff, most especially the grant writing team. "This is the first time the CNMI has received this type competitive grant and I am most proud of the team and their handwork. This is truly an cooperative accomplishment," he said.

Kacky Andrews, NOAA Cor-

al Reef Conservation manager, called Laolao Bay "one of the jewels of CNMI's coral reefs."

Andrews said NOAA intends to work with the Northern Marianas "to ensure that this 5,000-year-old reef can continue to grow, providing habitat for a diverse population of fish and marine life, and buffering the impacts of storms, as well as providing recreational opportunities for divers and fishers."

Grant funds will also be used to replant hillside areas above Laolao where illegal burning has occurred. Together with the planned road improvements, this revegetation should prevent some 600,000 pounds of soil from eroding into the bay each year.

Erosion has caused major changes in Laolao over the last 30 years. The number of coral species dominating the area has been reduced from 15 to 5.

Especially on the southern half of the bay coral and seagrasses have died and been replaced by algae, which is both unattractive and a poor habitat for fish.

These changes have a negative economic impact. Coral reefs are estimated to add \$42 million annually to the NMI tourist economy. And Laolao is one of the most popular dive sites for visitors. According to an MVA study, from September 2008 through February 2009 18,260 people dove the bay. But the decline of the corals and the fish that inhabit the reefs in Laolao Bay threatens the current demand for 100-200 guided dives per day. The DEQ restoration project NOAA is funding will attempt to reverse that decline.

The road improvements are also expected to increase recreational opportunities and the number of visitors—and visitor

dollars—that come to the bay. At present the poor condition of the road, which is often washed out by heavy rains, makes it impossible for buses to bring tourists to the Laolao beaches and makes it difficult for locals, too, without four-wheel drive.

The grant funds will pay for paving the road and allow tour buses to get down to the Laolao beaches. The DEQ grant application foresees that this development will require tour guides, drivers, office logistics coordinators, and will increase the business of local tour companies. Additional dive instructors, operators, and refreshment vendors will also be employed. Rough estimates of visitors to Laolao Bay are approximately 48,000 per year at the dive site alone. This does not include fishermen, picnickers, runners or general recreational users. (PR)

Woman allegedly steals \$6,028 from Pellegrino firm

A former saleswoman of a company owned by businessman Anthony Pellegrino was arrested Tuesday afternoon for allegedly stealing \$6,028 in sales and worth of shrimps from the firm.

Lorraine S. Ada, 31, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing on charges of theft and theft by failure to make required disposition of funds.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed Ada to post a bail of \$200 cash and \$1,800 unsecured bond. Wiseman appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent her in the case.

Detective Joaquin I. Deleon Guerrero stated in his report

that Pellegrino, owner of Saipan Syaqua Aquaculture Co. Inc., reported to the Department of Public Safety last Feb. 9 that his then employee, Ada, stole about \$6,000 from his company.

Deleon Guerrero said Pellegrino found out that Ada's sales from November 2008 to January 2009 was short of that amount and that Ada did not remit her sales to the company's accounting division.

The detective said that, when Pellegrino confronted her, Ada allegedly admitted using the money for her children and personal expenses.

Pellegrino gave her an ultimatum, requiring her to pay

back the amount through payroll deduction. Pellegrino told the saleswoman to return to work on Feb. 9. When Ada did not show up on that day, Pellegrino filed a complaint with DPS the next day.

Ada reported for work on March 7 but has since then failed to show up.

According to the company's accounting report, Ada did not remit \$2,840 in cash sales, while 391 lbs of pre-packed shrimps worth \$3,128 released to her for sale were not accounted for.

The pre-packed shrimps were reportedly released to Ada between Dec. 17, 2008 and Jan. 31, 2009. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Guam governor expects Filipinos to fill jobs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of Filipino workers could be hired in the construction of new military bases on the U.S. territory of Guam, the island's governor said during a visit to the Philippines.

Guam will be hiring between 10,000 and 15,000 workers to support the U.S. military buildup, including the relocation of 8,000 Marines and their families from Okinawa over the next few years, Gov. Felix Camacho told report-

ers in Manila on Tuesday.

He said he expected skilled Filipino workers to fill job demands that cannot be met by local labor alone.

"It is not exclusive but the likelihood is that most will be from the Philippines," Camacho said. Chinese workers will not be hired because of security concerns related to work on military bases, he said.

The buildup will cost at least \$15 billion. Japan is covering \$6

billion of the bill.

The U.S. House Armed Services Committee last week passed a bill saying foreign workers won't be allowed to do more than 30 percent of the work on the Guam projects.

The 2010 National Defense Authorization Act would require the minimum wage for all Guam construction projects be at the prevailing wage level for similar work in Hawaii, said U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie from Hawaii.

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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Nang Joaquina Sablan, who is celebrating her birthday today, July 2. We love you! Greetings come from Jun, Celing, and you're your family in Boise.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Birthday greetings go out to Deric "DD" Kapileo who is celebrating his birthday today. Much love coming from your entire family, your IT&E family, most especially the "DIVAS" and your friends: Ruthie, Charisma, Jang, Rose, and Jade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Training for hemodialysis tech certification

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering a short-term training to hemodialysis technicians looking to take the Patient Care Technician National Certification Examination.

The training is designed to ensure that the hemodialysis facility staff meet the applicable qualifications, scope of practice, and board and licensure requirements of the state in which they are employed.

Training sessions, which require a \$200 fee, will be held from 8:30am to 12:30pm on

CONTACT INFO

- Tel: 234-5498 Ext. 1010
- E-mail: Les Ogumoro-Uludong at logumoro@nmcnet.edu.
- Visit: CDI Office in Building P

ON THE NET

www.nmcnet.edu

Sundays at the following dates in Room N-5 at the college's As Terlaje campus:

- July 5, 12, 19, 26
- Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- Sept. 6

All interested individuals should register before the first day of training. Certificates of attendance or competence will

be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. To register or for information about this training, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail Les Ogumoro-Uludong logumoro@nmcnet.edu.

The training, which will serve as a single, comprehensive source of information for every aspect of hemodialysis, is also geared around actual work-force needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. The training course is also offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

For a more detailed description of the training, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Saipan Mayor's Office sets new system for requests

Effective July 1, 2009, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan will no longer respond to requests for water delivery, picnic tables, road repair, coral delivery, and community service projects

through telephone calls. Those making the request must go to the Mayor's Office in San Antonio and fill out the necessary form before service is rendered.

At times, these services are

also temporarily stopped when fuel, oil and lubricant provisions are suspended by the fuel provider when payment to the vendor is not received on time from the Department

of Finance. When this situation arises, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela appeals to the public for their understanding until the fuel accounts are restored by the vendor. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 2, 1999

Continental mulls flight to S. Korea

Encouraged by the improvement in the Korean market and the easing of economic slowdown in South Korea, Continental Micronesia may begin charter service to that Asian country by the end of the year, according to company president Bill Meehan. "We're back there, analyzing the market. We potentially will start some charter service. We're analyzing that," he said in a television interview. Continental will use the more efficient 737-800 type of aircraft to compete with Korean Air and Asiana Airlines.

15-cent viewers' tax stirs Saipan lawmakers

Saipan legislators yesterday dilly-dallied on a proposal to repeal a nearly one-year law imposing a 15-cent tax on every rental of videotape and each movie ticket because of opposing views over whether the fee is a burden to consumers. An initial voting on House Local Bill 11-15 offered by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider resulted to 8-7 against it, but ended in a tie after Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes changed his vote twice, prompting the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to reconsider the action and continue its debate on the issue. The local legislative body was trying to undo the consequence of Saipan Local Law 11-1 or the Viewers Tax Act of 1998, which was passed on July last year and was signed into law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in less than a month.

July 2, 2001

Businesses cry for help

The Garapan Revitalization Project is not likely to take off in the near future, unless the government extends additional effort to help local businessmen survive the turtle-paced rally of the local economy. Slow business turnout have forced hundreds of small businesses to close down, while a big number of those who are still in operation are already toying with the idea of pulling down the shutter—for good. Pacific Rim International owner and realtor Tim Goodwin said majority of business owners in the Western Garapan do not have the money to renovate their respective establishments, as suggested by a government-created panel that oversees the Garapan Revitalization Project.

Solar eclipse in 2002 as tourist draw?

On the morning of June 11, 2002, an interesting natural phenomenon will be visible from the Northern Marianas. Next year's annular solar eclipse is a rare type that will only be witnessed on Saipan and Tinian in the Pacific and in Mexico in Central America, according to Michael Gill, a British information technology expert who is also an amateur astronomer specializing in solar eclipses. "Many people will have seen solar eclipses at some point in their lives. Usually, these solar eclipses are partial, with less than 100 percent of the sun's disc being covered. A total eclipse occurs when 100 percent of the sun's disc is hidden by the moon."

July 2, 2002

Faster entry processing urged

The Korean Airlines voiced out the sentiments aired by its passengers over the inconvenience caused by the insufficient number of officers manning the immigration booths at the Saipan International Airport. This prompted Korean Air management to ask the Department of Labor and Immigration to deploy additional immigration officers at the Saipan airport to fast-track the processing of the passengers' entry to the island. Korean Air Saipan Branch General Manager Tae-Hoo Han asked DOLI Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio to increase the number of immigration officers at the airport to minimize the inconvenience of having the passengers having to take a long line before their entry is processed.

Finance, 21 amusement firms sued over unpaid taxes

A group of amusement companies have initiated a taxpayers' lawsuit against the Finance department and more than 21 amusement firms who are allegedly operating collectively around 800 unlicensed poker machines in the CNMI to the detriment of the local economy and other tax-paying industry players. The suit, which primarily sought to prevent the defendants from further operating the alleged unlicensed machines, was filed yesterday by the Pacific Amusement Inc., through counsel Timothy M.B. Farrell, along with the L&W Amusement Corp., Northern Marianas Investment Group, Ltd. and Leonard G. Wolf Jr., with aid of lawyer Danilo T. Aguilar.

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Madoff's sorry apology

Bernard Madoff's apology was all we could have asked for. It wasn't half-hearted or mealy-mouthed. He accepted responsibility for his actions and didn't slip in any caveats, justifications or self-exculpatory asides.

"I'm sorry," the 71-year-old convicted swindler said, turning around in the courtroom to face his victims. "I live in a tormented state now, knowing of the pain and suffering that I've created."

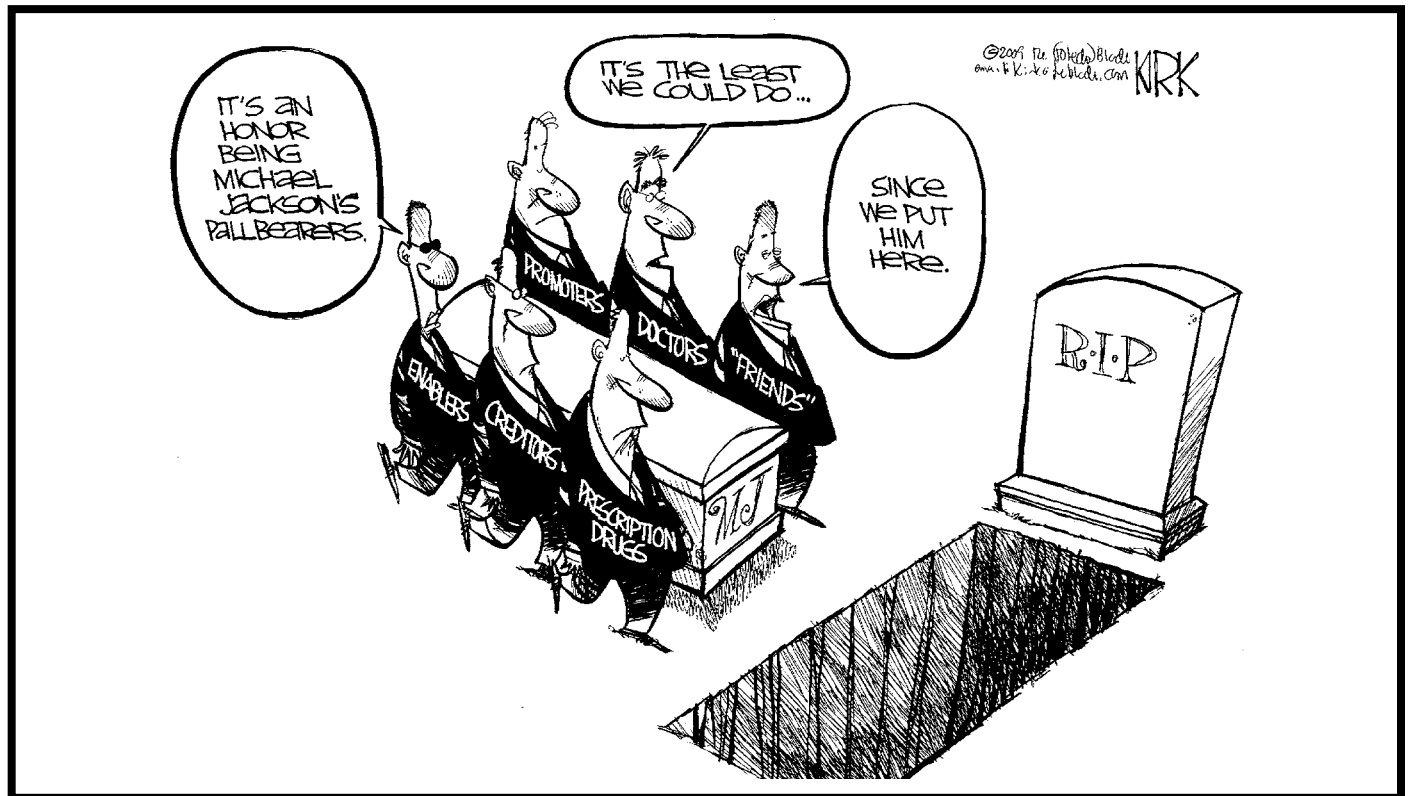
Great. Except for one little problem. The apology came after he was caught—after a decade spent reaping the benefits of his fraud, benefits that included a Manhattan penthouse, shares in two private jets, a beachfront house in the Hamptons and a yacht off the French Riviera. And the apology came just before his sentencing—immediately before U.S. District Judge Denny Chin was to decide whether to give him the maximum sentence of 150 years.

It seems an understatement to suggest that Madoff's credibility is compromised. Beginning in the early 1990s and continuing until his own children turned him in last December, he perpetrated one of the largest frauds in American history; hundreds of investors lost at least \$13 billion. And now he wants us to know how awful he feels about it?

Chin, to his credit, was not taken in. He called Madoff's crimes "spectacularly evil" before handing down the sentence. Chin said he didn't believe Madoff had done all he could to help prosecutors and trustees identify the stolen funds, and he cited a letter from an elderly victim in which she described how, after her husband died, Madoff put his arm around her "and in a kindly manner told her not to worry, that the money is safe with me."

We don't doubt Madoff when he says that his wife cries herself to sleep every night, or even when he describes the torment he lives with (now that it's out in the open). But we are growing tired of being apologized to by politicians, athletes, corporate chieftains and financial wizards for their various scandals, crimes and misjudgments only after their luck has run out. Ordinary people are required to make ethical decisions each day about what is acceptable behavior and what is not. By and large, they make those decisions before they act, not after they're caught. Is it too much to expect the same from people who ought to be our role models?

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



What are your biggest frustrations?

Last week we wrote about the biggest external threats facing CNMI businesses. This week we'll follow up with the biggest frustrations or obstacles that are keeping Saipan businesses from prospering. If these obstacles are big enough, they become critical constraints that will slow a company down and keep it from achieving its sales and profit goals. A serious constraint can even paralyze a business.

One way to tackle your biggest frustrations is to apply the process of constraint analysis. This requires that you have a clearly defined goal. The next step is to identify the constraints that determine how fast you can achieve the goal. The frustrations listed below are some things that are keeping people from growing their businesses. They have little control over some, but a lot of control over many of them. The biggest constraint is often the owner of the business. As one respondent stated: "I am my own biggest threat."

After identifying the constraints holding you back, you need to tackle them, or develop a plan to identify the steps needed to overcome your obstacles. Many of your frustrations may be the source of the frustrations your customers experience when they deal with you. Overcoming your constraints can make the difference between success and failure in your business.

Think about your biggest frustrations before you read the list below and consider how they are holding your business back. Removing any of them from your business can help you achieve your business goals faster than almost anything else you can do. Here is the question and the responses shared by 21 business owners and managers we interviewed: *What are your three greatest internal business frustrations or obstacles—other than the external threats—that if you were able to resolve, would allow your business to grow and prosper?*

High cost of doing business (40 percent) This includes the cost of goods, raw materials, utilities, advertising, etc. These rising costs have caused gross and net profit margins to shrink. However, because of the economy, customers are sensitive to price increases and many competitors maintain or lower their prices as a strategy to attract customers. This has placed businesses that don't have a monopoly in a difficult position to cut costs and services.

High cost of freight, shipping, and excise tax (20 percent) This could be combined with the overall cost of doing business, which would raise that response to 60 percent. However, several business owners specifically mentioned it. Shipping costs have risen significantly in the past few years, which also adds to the cost of doing business. One business owner suggested a tax replacement to the uncompetitive excise tax which has been untouched since 1995.

Lack of qualified and affordable local employees (20 percent) Many are concerned about the impact of federalization on their foreign workforce. Many of these individuals are key employees with specialized skills that are difficult to replace with local workers. One respondent has 40 percent local hires, but no local key employee. Tony Pellegrino's trade school was praised for training locals.

Lack of raw materials (15 percent) It's difficult to keep things in stock, especially food items.

Lack of local companies with special services (15 percent) Not only is this lacking, but it is also difficult to contact companies in different time zones.

Lack of capital to expand and grow (15 percent) Getting a loan is more difficult because of poor financials, excessive debt, or banks unwilling to lend. This makes it difficult to purchase equipment,

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan TribuneRik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

supplies, and inventory.

Personal issues that also have an effect on the business (10 percent) These are not directly related to the business, but have a direct impact. They include family issues such as death, divorce, infidelity, or difficulty with children. It can also include gambling, compulsive behaviors, alcohol or drug addiction, etc.

Need procedures and business processes (10 percent) Even though this was not mentioned more, I know from personal experience that most small and mid-sized businesses lack standard operating procedures.

Equipment failures due to power outages (5 percent) This was a major issue last year, and it caused enormous difficulties for businesses.

Not enough parking at present location (5 percent) As a customer, you know how difficult it is to find parking at some businesses.

Getting quick decisions from off-island headquarters (5 percent) Some businesses are local branches with headquarters in another location.

Land leases are not long enough (5 percent)

Government not paying or paying too slowly (5 percent) This is a major problem, and I'm surprised more businesses did not mention it.

Individuals or businesses that don't pay their bills (5 percent) The government is not the only entity holding on to their money.

Slow shipping time from mainland (5 percent)

Cutting services and overhead due to lower revenue (5 percent) This is a corollary to the high cost of doing business. If prices aren't raised when costs go up, then overhead must be trimmed. This often means a reduction in force or cutting employee hours. It can also mean services are reduced or eliminated for customers.

Employee morale due to uncertain business future (5 percent) Cutting hours and terminations create low morale, but also the uncertainty about the future has an effect on the attitudes and management can't give any answers.

Lack of teamwork between people and departments (5 percent) Employees will do their job description, but don't work well together.

Employees who are self-starters and acquire new skills (5 percent) One manager lamented that employees need constant reminders to complete tasks.

Not enough time to grow the business (5 percent) Reducing the number of employees means that people have to take on additional responsibilities.

Lack of a plan to follow (5 percent) With all the difficulties businesses are experiencing, few have a plan they have thought through to deal with their challenges. This will be the topic of next week's article, and the answer to the final question in our survey.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Integrity

Author's Note: This article is a paraphrase of one sent to me by a close stateside friend.

I am told that recently a candidate for governor for a minor political party in one state was chosen via a very unique methodology. The grand old man of that party was tasked with the selection. Being a gentleman of some stature in the community and one noted for his integrity, he came up with the following solution.

Calling together the potential candidates, he gave the following speech:

"I have been tasked by the party's central committee with selecting one of you as this party's candidate for governor in the election two years from now. To assist me in making the choice I am in turn tasking each one of you as follows.

"I am going to give each one of you a seed today—one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be our party's next candidate for governor."

One man named Mike was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil, and compost; and he planted the seed. Every day, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other potential candidates began to talk in meetings about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Mike kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks,

four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Mike didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by and still nothing in Mike's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Mike didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil hoping the seed would grow.

A year finally went by and all of the party's young turks brought their plants to the meeting on the day of decision for inspection. Mike told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she advised him to just be honest about what happened. Mike, though, felt sick to his stomach. It was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot into the board room.

When Mike arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful and in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the leader arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young colleagues. Mike just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the man. "Today one of you will be chosen as our next candidate!"

The old man spotted Mike at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his secretary to escort him to the front. Mike was terrified. He thought, "The man knows I'm a failure! Maybe he'll have me fired!"

When Mike got to the front, the man asked him what had happened to his seed. Mike told him the story.

The man asked everyone to sit down except Mike. He looked at

A rebate rhapsody in blue

Last week, I characterized my attempt to get my 2007 tax rebate as a repulsed rhapsody. A colleague accused me of being obscurantist again. "Why didn't you just say you had difficulty getting your check, and leave it at that!" he said. Fair enough.

But let's rehash the situation though. My 2007 tax rebate did not get sent along with the rest of the islands' batch on August 2008 because Revenue and Taxation division discovered that I paid my 2000 and 2001 employer tax late. So they levied a fine for the lateness, which then piled up with interest. Notification was sent to P.O. box on record that belongs to a previous employer. As Judy of the Dandan office kindly reminded my Social Studies mind, "Ignorance of the law is no excuse."

I appealed to have the fine and interest waived. Eva and Kit at Finance up on Capital Hill helped expedite the decision: the fine was waived but not the interest. I asked myself how there could be interest if the fine that was bearing the interest was canceled. My Tinian friend reminded me that I was being unduly rational again!

Finance's decision was faxed to the Dandan office Friday but it sat in the machine and never made it to the concerned personnel, so I went ahead and paid for the fine and interest. When I checked on the status Monday morning, they still did not have the faxed decision so I showed Judy a copy of my paid receipt. "OK," she said. The office was to unblock my record, get it uploaded but not to keep my hopes high since Treasury cuts the checks only on government payday Friday.

"Fine," I said with a sigh of relief. I asked for my 2008 rebate. Judy could not find it in her database so I had to fumble for my copy, which she carried into the compliance section. They had no physical copy of a Social Security number on file and SS wants visual presentation of a card. I replied that it was done when I filed. Compliance wanted to see it again. Two more hurdles but we'll skip the rest of the story.

The allusion to Rhapsody leans toward the quintessential American music piece that combines classical music with jazz, *Rhapsody in Blue*. Those unfamiliar with the composition might want to ask our eminent Wil DeWitt with the Manta Ray Band at Southern High to let his award winning and Olympics 2008 performing group try the piece. The opening section performed with a clarinet executing a *glissando*—a glide of

a rising diatonic scale from one level of pitch to another—is so tantalizingly alluring that one gets sucked into the composition.

Unlike classical music (European sense) where the parts are interconnected and each section follows the previous one rationally and sometimes, empathetically, this *Rhapsody* is "a sort of a musical kaleidoscope of America, of our vast melting pot, of our unduplicated national pep, of our blues, our metropolitan madness," according to composer George Gershwin. One can cut parts of it without affecting the whole, which follows the tradition of jazz, and the rhapsody of American bureaucracy with all its discordant improvisatory divisions.

As Pacific islanders, we are familiar with the gliding pitch crescendo given our undulating ocean wave context, but as Asiatics, we might have been influenced by the *yin-yang* of the classical instrument (Chinese) of the *gu zheng*, which influenced the *kayagum* in Korea, *koto* in Japan and *dan tranh* in Vietnam where a note can be followed any another, two octaves apart—an irritating portamento to those used to the descrescendo of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony opening!

"So, why are you dumping all these music data when all you are talking about is your rebate," my collegial sounding board retorts. Fair enough. Indeed, there are things better left to the metaphysical musings of our maestro Wil DeWitt!

This is only to underscore the fact that in the revenue and taxation bureaucratic rhapsody, the smooth facilitation of an Eva, Kit and Judy is equaled by the bullying percussions and dissonant strings and horns of other component parts.

I was tempted to trek it up to Eloy Inos' office, whose acquaintance I had made a couple of times while maneuvering through the irritating transit security line in Nagoya when one is on a flight from Tokyo to Saipan and vice versa. Being an election year, I was certain he would have a sympathetic ear to my rebate plight, but I resisted the temptation.

I was in fact, devilishly attracted to use a camera-equipped cell phone, or turn on my Macbook cam each time I visited one of our government offices to follow-up the paper trail, and then twitter and/or YouTube the result, but having not elicited even a twitch from an OpEd piece, I did not think I would receive a better hearing. It might even aggravate the situation, given how our bureaucrats personally take a raised decibel in

ment is downright arrogant and insulting not only to me but to the other retired former employees of MTC.

As for the conflict of interest issue, it appears that you are questioning my interest on the pension payouts. I wish to also remind you that, as one of 20 representatives in the House, I swore to uphold the Constitution and laws of the CNMI but most importantly to represent the people within the confines of the same Constitution and laws. I take my job seriously in that I will not turn my back on someone asking for assistance whether the matter has something to do with IT&E, CUC, or any other company in the CNMI. I can assure you that I have no personal interest and even go as far as saying that you can keep my pension for all its worth.

My letter dated June 30, 2009, and addressed to you was responded

By **STEPHEN B. SMITH**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.



Mike, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next gubernatorial candidate! His name is Mike!" Mike couldn't believe it.

"He couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new candidate?" the others said.

Then the main man said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead. It was not possible for any of them to grow."

"All of you, except Mike, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Mike was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the candidate! Integrity isn't the most important thing; it's the only thing!"

Can we here in the CNMI guess if any of our candidates for governor in this year's election would be able to claim this kind of integrity? Which one? All? None?

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



the voice when bringing an issue to their attention.

Then it dawned on me that the world has turned into one *Rhapsody in Blue*. The post-election events of Iran are fueled by the subversive power of a click and a hack. Already, China is insisting that all computer units to be sold in its market must have a filter installed to "guide" proletarian options of websites to visits. Watch what transpires in Honduras.

If community in our time is best understood as facilitating the communication between discordant voices as suggested by Peter Block's *Community: The Structure of Belonging* (which our endearing Tina Sablan is trying to accomplish with our body politic), and not duplicate what Bill Bishop chronicles in *The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America Is Tearing Us Apart* (that Bill Clinton is actively promoting), then the image of the rhapsody is not to be bewailed but be welcomed.

Just think if my students who were pampered by their parents with the latest camera-equipped cell phones (an electronic device banned in our classrooms at San Vicente School) had pointed the device to the class and teacher, and then YouTube'd the product for everyone to witness and critique online, or Moodle'd in PSS' own e*rate system, what a lively learning experience that would have been!

Ah, I stray too far. Suffice it to say that Monday morning, I got the biggest surprise in my life. There were two envelopes in my mailbox that swiftly made it to the bank. I had five minutes to relish handling the amounts before all of it electronically faded to the never-neverland of contemporary common indebtedness. *A Rhapsody in Blue*, indeed!

Letter to the Editor

An open letter

This is to express my disappointment over statements IT&E's Larry Knecht made as reported in *Saipan Tribune* (July 1, 2009) where he pointed out that were it not for IT&E's voluntary termination of the pension plan to move them to a 401k plan, employees such as myself may not be eligible to receive anything.

Let me remind you Larry that while I applaud the company for taking this measure, no one, not even myself, pulled the company's legs and made the company terminate anything. The company did this on its own without anyone holding a gun to its head! This state-

ment is downright arrogant and insulting not only to me but to the other retired former employees of MTC.

As for the conflict of interest issue, it appears that you are questioning my interest on the pension payouts. I wish to also remind you that, as one of 20 representatives in the House, I swore to uphold the Constitution and laws of the CNMI but most importantly to represent the people within the confines of the same Constitution and laws. I take my job seriously in that I will not turn my back on someone asking for assistance whether the matter has something to do with IT&E, CUC, or any other company in the CNMI. I can assure you that I have no personal interest and even go as far as saying that you can keep my pension for all its worth.






Rep. **Francisco S. Dela Cruz**

16th CNMI House of Representatives

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Clear	▲89 ▼72
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼74
Yap	Mostly Clear	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87 ▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼74

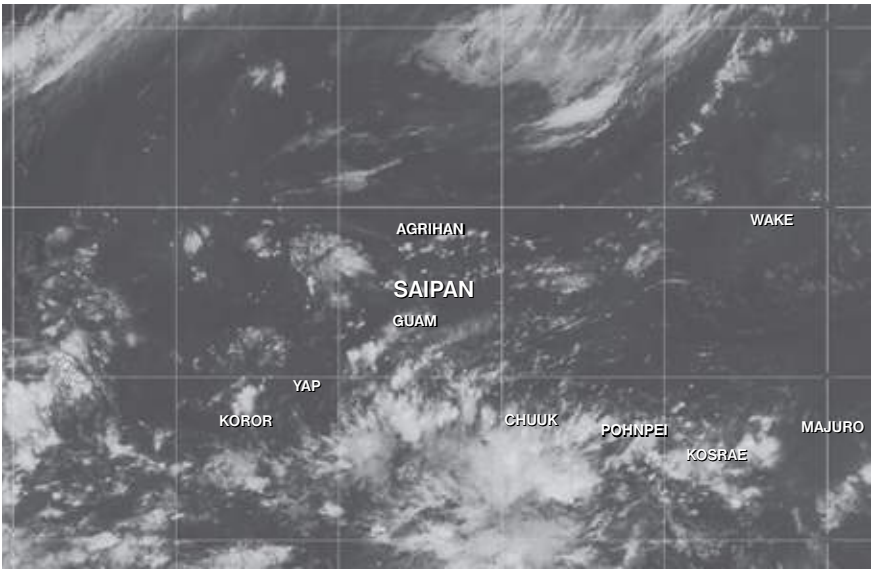
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼52
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲97 ▼70
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼75
London	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼64
Manila	Rain	▲88 ▼78
Melbourne	Rain	▲57 ▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼69
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼67
Paris	Cloudy	▲90 ▼69
Pusan	Showers	▲81 ▼68
Rome	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲92 ▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲73 ▼57
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼65
Tokyo	Rain	▲80 ▼69
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼65

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:43 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:26 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
5:45 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:58 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Over the Marianas, an upper-level trough is helping to enhance a few isolated pockets of showers and thunderstorms between 130E and 160E. Outside of these small areas, fair weather prevails. To the south, a weak seasonal surface trough in the ITCZ extends along 5N within southern Micronesia between 135E, just south of Koror through 150E south of Chuuk and over to 166E south of Pohnpei and in the vicinity of Kosrae. Low-level winds converging along the trough axis are helping to generate scattered showers and pockets of thunderstorms in this region between the equator and approximately 100 miles north of the trough axis. These showers are primarily south of Yap but are within the vicinity of Chuuk and Pohnpei as well as Kosrae. The strongest activity lies between 145E and 155E in southern Chuuk state in response to a broad low pressure area.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:34 PM	1:23 AM
Friday	3:27 PM	2:07 AM
Saturday	4:21 PM	2:53 AM
Sunday	5:13 PM	3:42 AM
Monday	6:03 PM	4:33 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN
C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5,6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM	GUAM-ROTA (ROP)
C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5,6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM	GUAM-SAIPAN
C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4,5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5,6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1,2,3,4,7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1,2,3,4,5,7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1,4,5,7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily	NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN
OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN
NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NW77 9:10pm 1:40am Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1,5	OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4,7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1,4,6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
SAIPAN-MANILA	MANILA-SAIPAN
OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2,3,4,5,6,7 via ICN C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1,2,4,6,7 via GUM	C0894/9604 10:00am 5:50pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1,3,5,6,7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2,4,6,7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG	HONG KONG-SAIPAN
OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2,3,4,5,6,7 via ICN	OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

General Motors' sale hearing set to continue

NEW YORK (AP)—A hearing to determine General Motors' fate will continue Wednesday, with the automaker expected to face more objections to its plan to sell the bulk of its assets to a new company and quickly emerge from bankruptcy protection.

Attorneys, bondholders, consumer groups and others packed a Manhattan courthouse Tuesday to hear about five hours of testimony by GM CEO Fritz Henderson, who said the No. 1 U.S. automaker's sale is necessary to get GM back on its feet quickly. Henderson cautioned that the government could walk away from the deal if the sale doesn't close by July 10.

Parties are expected back in court at 8 a.m. EDT Wednesday.

General Motors Corp., whose June 1 filing for bankruptcy protection was the fourth-largest in U.S. history, is hoping to avoid a lengthy sale hearing that could postpone its emergence from Chapter 11. Last month, objections from a group of bondholders and others dragged

out rival Chrysler LLC's sale hearing for three days.

Despite U.S. Judge Robert Gerber's urging for the attorneys to keep their arguments concise and to avoid redundancies among their questioning, the Tuesday hearing dragged on as a parade of lawyers made their way up to the podium to question Henderson.

"I think people have forgot why we're here and what we have to accomplish," Gerber said sharply after several tedious hours of testimony. "I'm not going to deny anybody due process, but I expect the questioning to be more focused."

Gerber appeared particularly annoyed when Henderson and other officials were questioned by Oliver Addison Parker, an attorney from Florida who claimed to own \$5 million in GM bonds. Parker spent much of his time at the podium searching for documents, at times asking opposing counsel to provide them, prompting Gerber to put his head in his hands.

"I don't think it's fair to ask the others and the court to fetch for you," Gerber said tersely while Parker was cross-examining Albert Koch, GM's chief restructuring officer.

At the same time, Henderson wasn't fazed by his lengthy stay on the stand, answering questions quickly and directly for the most part, and making eye contact with the attorneys.

When asked about the current

condition of GM, Henderson testified that the automaker's June sales were "slightly better than expected" excluding fleet sales, which he partly attributed to the company's progress toward a quick exit from Chapter 11.

In addition to Henderson and Koch, J. Stephen Worth, one of GM's restructuring advisers for the past year, also testified Tuesday.

Under a government-backed

deal, GM will sell most of its assets to a newly created company, 60 percent owned by the U.S. government. The Canadian government will get a 12.5 percent stake while the United Auto Workers union will take a 17.5 percent share to fund its health care obligations. Unsecured bondholders receive the remaining 10 percent.

Existing GM shareholders are expected to be wiped out.



General Motors CEO Fritz Henderson leaves bankruptcy court Tuesday, June 30, 2009 in New York.

Job losses hit June consumer confidence

NEW YORK (AP)—Mounting job losses and other economic realities caught up with Americans in June, pushing down a key barometer of consumer sentiment after a streak of gains built on glimmers of hope.

Some economists say the reality check offered by Tuesday's report from the New York-based Conference Board may not augur well for spending in the critical months ahead.

The Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index now stands at 49.3, down from its revised May level of 54.8.

The drop coincided with

mixed messages in the housing market. A report from the Treasury Department showing foreclosures jumped in the first quarter compared with 2008's fourth quarter. But a key housing price index showed price declines moderating.

Job security—a key factor in shoppers' willingness and ability to spend—continued to plague consumers surveyed by the Conference Board. And the Labor Department, which reports June's job data Thursday, is expected to show unemployment climbed.

"Consumers are making a

more somber and accurate assessment of the economy and their own financial position," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia. "Consumers may be thinking less bad is not good enough."

Because consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of economic activity in the United States, economists and investors watch it closely. The Dow Jones industrials fell 84.1 points, or 0.99 percent, to end Tuesday at 8,448.06 and reverse a small gain in the morning before the Conference Board report came out.

Madoff behind bars, but probe grinds forward

NEW YORK (AP)—Bernard Madoff, even as he faces the prospect of dying behind bars for his epic swindle, has never wavered on one point: He acted alone.

Federal investigators haven't budged either: They don't believe him.

The day after Madoff was given a 150-year term, a person close to the investigation said Tuesday the sentencing marked "the end of the beginning" of a far-reaching investigation expected to answer lingering questions about how the disgraced financier pulled off perhaps the largest financial fraud history—and who helped him.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because

the investigation is ongoing, told The Associated Press on Monday that prosecutors expect to charge at least 10 more people in connection with the scheme. The person said Tuesday that no arrests were imminent.

The U.S. attorney's office refused to comment on the status of the investigation or potential suspects.

Defense attorney Ira Sorkin said Tuesday that Madoff likely would be transferred from a federal jail in Manhattan to an unspecified prison in the next month. His client, he added, was "resigned to his fate."

Madoff, 71, pleaded guilty in March to charges that his secretive investment advisory business

was a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out thousands of investors and ruined charities.

Madoff admitted his own crimes, but has claimed members of his inner circle—including a brother and two sons who ran a brokerage operation under the same roof as his firm—were innocent bystanders. Lawyers for the family have vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

"How do you excuse deceiving 200 employees who have spent most of their working life working for me?" Madoff said at sentencing. "How do you excuse lying to your brother and two sons who spent their whole adult life helping to build a successful and respectful business?"

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO.
-v-	07-0385
ESTATE OF JOAQUIN G. ADRIANO, and MARIAN S. ADRIANO (aka MARIAN P. SABLAN), Defendants.	NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 15, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants the Estate of Joaquin G. Adriano and Marian S. Adriano (aka Marian P. Sablan) in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT NO. 0051360, containing an area of 999 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 005 1 07 dated September 30, 1983.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 16, 2009, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. **Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 16th day of June, 2009:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Strong quarter ends cautiously as earnings loom

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors carried Wall Street to a remarkable second-quarter performance even though stocks' big spring rally stalled weeks ago. The major indexes all managed to end the quarter with double-digit percentage gains. Now, whether the market regains its momentum in the July-September period or hunkers down again will depend on what companies have to say in the next few weeks—not just about their own prospects, but the economy's as well. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 11 percent during the quarter, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index surged 15.2 percent. Both indexes logged their first quarterly gains since the third quarter of 2007. The Dow also had its best quarter since 2003 and the S&P 500 its best since 1998. The S&P 500 index and the Nasdaq composite index are finishing the first half of 2009 in the black. The Nasdaq, heavily populated by tech stocks, rose 20 percent for its first winning quarter in a year and had its best quarter since 2003.

Dunkin' Donuts pulls drinks in salmonella concern

CANTON, Mass. (AP)—Dunkin' Donuts has temporarily stopped selling hot chocolate and Dunkaccino brand beverages after learning equipment used at a supplier's facility might have been contaminated with salmonella. The Canton, Mass.-based company said Tuesday none of its products was contaminated and the withdrawal of the beverages from its stores was a precaution to ensure customer safety. It has about 6,400 franchised restaurants in the United States and says it serves 3 million customers a day. Plainview, Minn., supplier Plainview Milk Products Cooperative announced it had voluntarily recalled its instant nonfat dried milk and whey protein because of potential salmonella bacteria contamination. It says there were no reported illnesses.

Judge revokes bond for Texas financier Stanford

HOUSTON (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday revoked the bond of Texas financier R. Allen Stanford, ordering he be kept in jail while he awaits trial on charges alleging he swindled investors out of \$7 billion. U.S. District Judge David Hittner issued an order overturning a magistrate judge's decision last week to allow Stanford to be free on \$500,000 bond but be under GPS monitoring and home detention. Stanford has been in custody since being indicted and arrested June 18. "The court determines that Stanford is a serious flight risk and there is no condition or combination of conditions of pretrial release that will reasonably assure his appearance as required for trial," Hittner wrote in his 13-page order.

Nation

SC governor 'crossed lines' with women

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford declared his Argentine mistress his soul mate Tuesday but said he is committed to reconciling with his wife in hopes of saving his family and what is left of his political career.

Sanford, who also admitted meeting his lover more times than he had previously claimed, told The Associated Press in emotional interviews that he "crossed lines" with a handful of other women during 20 years of marriage.

But he said he never went as far as he did with Maria Belen Chapur, the woman at the center of the scandal that has derailed his once-promising political future.

Even with the latest revelations, Sanford maintains he is fit to govern and has no plans to resign. And he insisted his relationship with Chapur, whom he met at an open air dance spot in Uruguay eight years ago, was more than just sex.

"This was a whole lot more than a simple affair, this was a love story," Sanford said. "A forbidden one, a tragic one, but a love story at the end of the day."

During more than three hours of



South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford gestures as he talks during an interview with The Associated Press about his relationship with an Argentine mistress in his Columbia, S.C., Statehouse office on Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

interviews over two days at his Statehouse office, Sanford said he is trying to fall back in love with his wife even as he grapples with his deep feelings for Chapur.

Sanford detailed more encounters with his mistress than he had disclosed during a rambling, emotional press conference last week. The new revelations Tuesday led the state attorney general to launch an investigation of his travels, and some are calling for him to step down.

Among the encounters was what he described as a farewell meeting in New York this past winter, chaperoned by a spiritual adviser and sanctioned by his wife soon after she found out about the affair.

But he saw Chapur again, this time over Father's Day weekend and after his wife expressly told him not to, leaving the country without telling his staff and instead leading them to believe he was hiking the Appalachian Trail.

By the time he returned to a puzzled public, staff and family, his public image and emotional state had unraveled. He admitted the affair at a press conference televised nationally.

Franken wins Minn. Senate race; Coleman concedes

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Al Franken ascended Tuesday from the hallowed ranks of former "Saturday Night Live" comedians to an even more exclusive club, outlasting Republican Norm Coleman in an eight-month recount and courtroom saga to win a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Franken's victory gives Democrats control of 60 seats in the Senate—the critical number needed to overcome Republican filibusters. When Franken is seated, which could come as early as next week, his party will have a majority not reached on either side of the aisle in some three decades.

"When you win an election this close, you know not one bit of effort went to waste," Franken said. "The way I see it, I'm not going to Washington to be the 60th Democratic senator, I'm going to Washington to be the second senator from Minnesota."

Coleman conceded the election hours after a unanimous state Supreme Court ruled that Franken—who transitioned into politics with books poking fun at conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh—should be certified the winner. In doing so, he pulled the plug on a bitter election that was ultimately decided by 312

votes out of nearly 2.9 million cast.

"Franni and I are so thrilled that we can finally celebrate this victory," Franken told reporters outside his downtown Minneapolis town house, where he was accompanied by his wife. He added: "I can't wait to get started."

Coleman could have carried his fight into federal court, but it was unlikely to overturn the state Supreme Court's decision. The prospect created months of intrigue over whether Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty would sign an election certificate for Franken if Coleman was still purs-

ing appeals, a possibility that became moot with Coleman's concession.

"The Supreme Court has made its decision and I will abide by the results," Coleman said outside his St.

Paul home. Appearing relaxed and upbeat, Coleman said he had congratulated Franken, was at peace with the decision and had no regrets about the fight.

Judge favors trial soon on Calif. gay marriage ban

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge wants a trial on California's same-sex marriage ban to proceed quickly but says he likely won't suspend the voter-approved ban in the meantime.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Vaughn Walker said holding a speedy trial on the merits of a lawsuit challenging Proposition 8 would avoid novel issues that might be raised if he issued a temporary injunction.

A hearing on the injunction had been scheduled for Thursday. But in his tentative order Tuesday, the judge proposed using the time instead for setting a trial schedule.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown, defendants in the lawsuit, had argued against lifting the ban. They said allowing same-sex marriages to resume would create confusion for couples and for the state.

But both also urged the judge to hear the case quickly. Brown also has sided with the plaintiffs who brought the lawsuit—two unmarried same-sex couples say the ban voters narrowly approved in November violates their civil rights.

Former U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson, one of the lawyers representing the two couples, said Tuesday he was not disappointed by Walker's decision.

"We are very happy. What we have wanted all along is for this case to move expeditiously to a final judgment that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional," he said.

Ordinarily, a civil lawsuit could take a year or more to be heard in court. Given Walker's favoring a faster timeline, it would not be unreasonable to expect him to hear the Proposition 8 challenge by the end of the year, Olson said.

Walker on Tuesday also gave the ballot measure's sponsors permission to intervene as parties in the case, noting that with the attorney general poised to argue for the other side, their interests would otherwise not be represented in the proceedings.

A lawyer for the coalition of religious groups that sponsored Proposition 8 did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment on the judge's order.

Big cities see resurgence in population growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reversing a decade-long trend, many of America's largest cities are now growing more quickly than the rest of the nation, yet another sign of an economic crisis that is making it harder for people to move.

Census data released Wednesday highlight a city resurgence in coastal regions and areas of the Midwest and Northeast, due to a housing crunch, recession and higher gas prices that have slowed migration to far-flung suburbs and residential hotspots in the South and West.

The 2008 population figures show

New York and Chicago made gains from higher births, while Philadelphia stanching population losses from earlier in the decade. Also showing rebounds were industrial centers in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., Columbus, Ohio, and Lincoln, Neb., with economies focused on finance, health care, information technology or education. Detroit, with its ailing auto industry, declined.

Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Portland, Ore., all on the West Coast, registered growth,

boosted partly by foreign-born immigrants who moved into and stayed in gateway cities. In contrast, former hotspot areas in Nevada and Arizona had significant slowdowns, as well as inland regions in California.

"Cities are showing a continued vitality as hubs of activity even as some suburban and exurban areas go through tough times," said William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution. "It emphasizes the buoyancy of large established cities with diverse economies and populations."



ACROSS THE NATION

Gunmen fire on group of Detroit teens, wounding 7

DETROIT (AP)—Gunmen in a green minivan opened fire on a group of teenagers waiting at a bus stop near a Detroit school on Tuesday, wounding seven including two who were in critical condition, authorities said. Five of the teens had just left Cody Ninth Grade Academy, where they were taking summer classes, when they were shot at the nearby bus stop. The gunmen exited a vehicle and

"asked for a person by name" before they "opened fire at the crowd," said Detroit Public Schools Police Chief Roderick Grimes. Detroit Police were looking for two suspects in a green minivan, said spokesman Rod Liggins. Officers were interviewing some of the victims in the hospital Tuesday evening, he said.

Medical examiner: Ore. girl appeared malnourished

OREGON CITY, Ore. (AP)—A 15-

month-old girl whose parents' church shuns doctors in favor of faith healing appeared to be malnourished after her death from pneumonia, a deputy medical examiner testified Tuesday in the manslaughter trial of her parents. Raylene and Carl Brent Worthington of Oregon City are members of the Followers of Christ Church and are accused of manslaughter and criminal mistreatment in the death last year of their child, Ava. The state medical examiner said she could easily have been

saved with antibiotics. It was the first case brought under Oregon's 1999 law that rejects a religious defense for most abuse cases and was drafted mostly in response to groups such as the Followers of Christ.

Mass. man charged with murder in son's beating

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP)—A man accused of beating his 7-year-old son to death of Father's Day was charged Tuesday with murder and was ordered

held without bail. Leslie Schuler, 36, is accused of repeatedly beating Nathaniel Turner, culminating in a brutal assault on June 21, when he's alleged to have slammed the boy's head into a wall so hard it left a dent. The boy was declared brain dead two days later. Schuler, of Worcester, originally was charged with multiple counts of assault, but a murder charge was added when the boy died on Saturday after being removed from a hospital ventilator.

Asia

NKorean ship under US scrutiny changes course

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean ship under scrutiny for more than a week by the U.S. Navy has changed course and was heading back the way it came, U.S. officials said as Pyongyang warned Wednesday it will take military action if anyone attempts to search its vessels.

The Kang Nam I—originally believed bound for Myanmar with suspicious cargo on board, possibly illicit weapons—turned

around and headed back north on Sunday, two U.S. officials said on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

The U.S. officials, speaking in Washington on Tuesday, said they do not know where the ship is going. But it was some 250 miles (400 kilometers) south of Hong Kong on Tuesday and was heading north, one official said.

The North Korean ship is the first vessel monitored under U.N. sanctions aimed at punishing the

regime for conducting an underground nuclear test in May.

The new resolution seeks to clamp down on North Korea's trading of banned arms and weapons-related material by requiring U.N. member states to request inspections of ships suspected of carrying prohibited cargo.

The communist nation has said it would consider interception of its ships a declaration of war. On Wednesday, North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper renewed the warning.

"Touching our ships constitutes a grave military provocation against our country," the paper said in commentary carried by the official Korean Central News Agency. "These acts will be followed immediately by self-defensive military countermeasures."



In this file photo taken , Monday, May 21, 2007, North Korean cargo ship Kang Nam I, is docked at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawar port, south of Yangon, Myanmar. AP

China backs down from a requirement for Web filter

BEIJING (AP)—In a rare reversal, China's government gave in to domestic and international pressure and backed down Tuesday from a rule that would have required personal computers sold in the country to have Internet-filtering software.

Just hours before the rule was to have taken effect, the government said it would postpone the requirement for the "Green Dam" software. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said it made the decision partly because some PC manufacturers were having difficulty meeting the deadline. It did not say whether the plan might be revived.

The change of course averted a possible scuffle with Washington. Top U.S. officials had

protested the plan after it was imposed abruptly in May, calling it a barrier to trade. Angry Web users circulated online petitions protesting Green Dam, while industry groups warned the software might create computer security problems.

The controversy reflected the conflict between the communist government's desire to control information and China's high-tech ambitions. The country has an increasingly informed, vocal public and tighter links to companies that create urgently needed jobs and tax revenue.

The decision was a "victory for China's civil society," said Li Fangping, a Beijing lawyer who had demanded a public hearing on the plan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

British man begins Australian island dream job

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Briton Ben Southall said he'll miss his mom's Sunday roast as he began what's been dubbed the "Best Job in the World"—a six-month contract to serve as caretaker of a tropical Australian island. The 34-year-old former charity worker bested nearly 35,000 applicants from around the world for the dream assignment that started Wednesday to swim, explore and relax on Hamilton Island in the Great Barrier Reef while writing a blog to promote the area. He was selected for the 150,000 Australian dollar (\$120,000) gig by officials from the tourism department of Queensland state in early May.


Swine flu: Philippine president quarantines self

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The president of the Philippines has placed herself under voluntary quarantine after returning from a 13-day trip to countries affected by swine flu—despite the fact that she's feeling fine, officials said Tuesday. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will enter a hospital as part of the

quarantine procedure to serve as an example of a responsible traveler helping to stop the spread of the disease, said Press Secretary Cerge Remonde. Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said Arroyo was well and it was her decision to go into self-quarantine. Arroyo returned late Monday from visits to Japan, the United States, Colombia, Brazil and Hong Kong to drum up foreign investments to help the country deal with the global financial crisis.

US cuts Indonesian debt for forest protection

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia committed to the conservation of its dwindling tropical forests in a multimillion dollar debt-swap deal signed Tuesday with the American government, the U.S. Embassy said. Jakarta's payments to Washington will be reduced by \$30 million over the next eight years under the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act, the embassy said in a statement. The Indonesian government will donate the money it saves to the charities Conservation International and the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation, which will deposit the money into a local forest conservation fund.



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World

Iraqis celebrate US pullback but bombing kills 33

BAGHDAD (AP)—Not a single American soldier was in sight. Gone, too, were the American helicopters whose buzz has for years defined Baghdad's background track.

Left alone to protect the capital Tuesday were thousands of Iraqi troops and police manning checkpoints, with army tanks deployed at potential trouble spots and convoys of pickup trucks with machine guns roaming the streets.

But it was elsewhere, 180 miles to the north, that militants delivered their first deadly challenge to Iraq's security forces on a highly symbolic day after the formal withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from cities at midnight.

A car bombing devastated a food market in the city of Kirkuk, killing at least 33 people and wounding 90. The early evening attack, which bore the hallmarks of Sunni extremist groups like al-Qaida in Iraq, was the second in the Kirkuk area since a truck bombing killed 82 people on June 20.

The latest blast was a deadly example of the violence many Iraqis fear will increase with the departure of U.S. troops from urban areas, despite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's confidence in Iraq's nascent security forces.

The bombing came hours after the U.S. military announced that



Iraqis celebrate in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, June 30, 2009. AP

four American soldiers were killed in combat Monday. It was the deadliest attack on U.S. forces since May 21, when three soldiers were killed and nine wounded in a roadside bombing in Baghdad.

"It reminds me that there are still dangers out there," Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. soldier in Iraq, said of the American deaths. "There are still people out there who do not want the government of Iraq to succeed."

The violence marred what otherwise was a festive occasion as Iraqis commemorated the newly declared National Sovereignty Day with military parades and marching bands in the capital.

Colorful paper balls and Iraqi flags were hoisted on blast walls at checkpoints as patriotic songs blared from loudspeakers on sidewalks.

Plastic flowers and streamers decorated police and army vehicles. One car had a red heart with the English word "Love" in the middle, as if for Valentine's Day.

Some policemen danced atop their vehicles as they moved in convoys across the capital. Traffic was light in Baghdad, but particularly thorough searches at some checkpoints meant long lines of waiting cars in parts of the city.

UN tells Honduras to reinstate president

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' ousted president won overwhelming international support Tuesday as he planned a high-profile return to his chaotic country. The politicians who sent soldiers to fly him into exile in his pajamas said he will be arrested for treason if he tries.

The showdown was building to a climax as the presidents of Argentina and Ecuador signed on to accompany President Manuel Zelaya and other figures on a flight to Honduras on Thursday. Attorney General Luis Alberto Rubi

said Zelaya would be seized "as soon as he sets foot on Honduran soil" and face 20 years in prison on charges that also include abuse of authority.

"I'm going back to calm people down. I'm going to try to open a dialogue and put things in order," Zelaya said at the United Nations. "When I'm back, people are going to say ... 'commander, we're at your service' and the army will have to correct itself. There's no other possibility." The U.N. General Assembly voted by acclamation to demand Zelaya's im-

mediate restoration, and the Organization of American States was meeting to consider suspending Honduras for straying from democracy.

With no international support but a significant following at home, the new Honduran leadership called thousands of flag-waving people into a downtown plaza. Soldiers fenced off the area around the presidential palace, where security forces used tear gas and water cannons Monday against Zelaya supporters, injuring and arresting dozens.

Iran leader praised amid signs of political purge

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Iran's ruling clerics closed ranks around President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday, hailing him as a "champion" amid signs that he may have begun purging his government of anyone perceived as an opposition sympathizer.

A sense of resignation mingled with indignation settled over supporters of Mir Hossein Mousavi, Iran's embattled opposition leader, whose insistence that massive fraud robbed him of vic-

tory in the June 12 presidential election touched off two weeks of violent street clashes between protesters and police.

Iran's highest electoral authority proclaimed the election outcome valid Monday—paving the way for Ahmadinejad to be sworn in next month—and the incumbent leader sent a stern message to those in his administration who survived his first term: He won't tolerate dissent in his second.

Three senior Oil Ministry officials with loose ties to Mousavi were fired, the independent news agency Fararu

reported. All three were prominent members of ex-President Mohammad Khatami's government and reportedly were allies of another former president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Both former presidents were considered to be backers of Mousavi's bid for the presidency.

Ahmadinejad basked in the praise of ranking clerics and supporters who celebrated his re-election in a landslide questioned by Western analysts who have called his roughly 2-to-1 margin of victory suspicious and improbable.

Air France beacons fade with investigation hopes

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Signals from the black boxes of Air France Flight 447 are fading, weakening along with hopes of resolving what experts are calling one of history's most challenging plane crash investigations.

Emergency beacons attached to cockpit voice and data recorders are built to emit strong "pings" for 30 days after a crash before fading away, though experts said they could continue for as long as 45 days.

Wednesday marks Day 30 since the plane dropped out of the sky with 228 people on board in a remote area of the Atlantic far off Brazil's northeastern coast and from radar coverage. A burst of automated messages emitted by the plane before it fell gave rescuers only a vague location to begin their search.

"Without that starting point, the 'needle in the haystack' analogy would look like an easy assignment compared to this," said Peter Goetz, a former managing director of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. "This is the most difficult accident in terms of recovery operations that I've ever seen."

Those hunting for the two black boxes said the search will continue. On Tues-

day, Martine del Bono, spokeswoman for the French air accident agency leading the investigation, said it "is continuing the search" as long as there is a "reasonable" chance of locating the black boxes. She gave no final deadline.

U.S. Air Force Col. Willie Berges, the Brazil-based commander of the American military forces supporting the effort, has said searchers are likely to keep looking for 12 to 15 days beyond the crash's 30-day mark. The Americans are operating two U.S. Navy pinger locators that are being towed by French-contracted ships. A French nuclear submarine is scouring a search area with a radius of 50 miles (80 kilometers) in the area where the plane is thought to have crashed.

The logistics of recovering debris and remains from the Air France flight are complicated by its disappearance 930 miles (1,500 kilometers) off Brazil's mainland. Investigators should have an easier time recovering debris and clues in the crash of a Yemeni Airbus 310 with 153 people on board that went down Tuesday just nine miles (14.5 kilometers) north of the Indian Ocean island-nation of Comoros.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemeni plane with 153 crashes off Comoros islands

MORONI, Comoros (AP)—A Yemeni jetliner carrying 153 people crashed into the Indian Ocean on Tuesday as it attempted to land amid severe turbulence and howling winds. Officials said a teenage girl was plucked from the sea, the only known survivor. The crash in waters off this island nation came two years after aviation officials reported

equipment faults with the plane, an aging Airbus 310 flying the last leg of a Yemenia airlines flight from Paris and Marseille to Comoros, with a stop in Yemen to change planes. Most of the passengers were from Comoros, a former French colony. Sixty-six on board were French nationals.

Police find 5 bodies, severed head in Mexico

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Mexican

police on Tuesday found the remains of six people tortured and shot to death in a western state that is a focus of the government's war against drug cartels. In other bloodshed, the body of a slain Texas teenager was found in a violent northern border city, but authorities had not determined whether her killing was related to the drug trade. Police in the western state of Michoacan found the bodies of five men in a hole on a remote dirt road near the city of Apatzingan, the state prosecutor's

office said. The bodies were blindfolded, gagged and showed signs of torture and multiple gunshot wounds—trademarks of drug-related homicides.

US lawyer imprisoned in Belarus freed after pardon

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—An ailing American lawyer who was imprisoned in Belarus last year on charges of using fake documents and at-

tempted industrial espionage walked free Tuesday night after a presidential pardon. Emanuel Zeltser, a 55-year-old diabetic, was sentenced to three years in prison in August 2008 after being convicted in a closed trial on charges his supporters called politically motivated. In November, Zeltser was placed in a prison hospital after arriving at a penal colony in eastern Belarus, where he was denied medicine, according to lawyers.

Campus Life

Learning how bacteria and viruses spread

The 5th grade class at San Vicente Elementary School did a hands-on science activity that had students excitedly telling their friends how scared they were.

"It was really scary, I thought I was going to die."

"I don't have any bacteria, great! Yahoo!"

"Oh no, its all over my hands, I got it from touching the door."

"Dad, it was so scary because our classmate went home sick the day before and we thought it was because of the bacteria."

There was no real deadly bacteria in the class, only powder that glows under a black light.

The activity, called "Bacteria Everywhere," made a strong impression on the students on how quickly and easily bacteria and viruses can be passed from one person to another. They also learned that washing hands and keeping hands away from the mouth and eyes is one of the easiest ways to prevent viruses and bacteria from entering the body. (*Valrick Welch*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Required items for the "Bacteria Everywhere" activity.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Procedures for the activity.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students culturing bacteria.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bacteria growing in a petri dish.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Collecting bacteria samples from teachers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students being tested for the power.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students react to the bacteria growing in the petri dish.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This was the scary part of the activity.

Students without borders: Internet aids global collaboration

By **MARIA GLOD**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—A team of very smart teenagers has set out to discover ways that maggots might make the world a better place. Two are from suburban Washington. Two live more than 9,000 miles away in Singapore.

Even as globalization has fed worries about whether U.S. students can keep up with the rest of the world, it also has spawned classroom connections across oceans. Teachers, driven by a desire to help students navigate a world made smaller by e-mail, wikis and teleconferences, say

lessons once pulled mainly from textbooks can come to life through real-world interactions.

"When we talk on Facebook," Joanne Guidry, 17, one of the researchers at the Academy of Science in suburban Loudoun

ON THE NET

www.washingtonpost.com/education

County, Va., said of her Singaporean peers, "you can't tell they are halfway around the world."

Ballou High School students in Washington made a dance video to go-go music, and an Israeli school sent back a folk



THE WASHINGTON POST

Sowmya Banda, 17, left, and Claudia Gutierrez, 16, work through an experiment at the Academy of Science at Dominion High School in Sterling, Va. Students have worked online with peers in Singapore to study the antimicrobial properties of maggot flatulence.

dance video. A New York class talked to French students about Barack Obama's July visit to France as a presidential candidate. Students in suburban Montgomery County, Md., and Romania last fall shared ideas on whether cyberbullies should be punished.

Teachers see such exchanges not only as an exciting way to teach geography, history, language and science but also as a vehicle to forge connections that push children beyond cultural stereotypes.

There is no way to count exactly how many U.S. schools have connected with foreign schools. But teachers are signing on in record numbers to on-line forums designed to link students across the world through

secure digital spaces. More than 600,000 educators in 200 countries have joined ePals, a company based in suburban Herndon, Va., that matches teachers with similar interests and provides translations.

This spring, third-graders at Maryvale Elementary in suburban Rockville, Va., used ePals to talk to a class in Guatemala—chats that sparked lessons on geography, climates and writing.

In one note, a Guatemalan student mentioned that he liked to visit a volcano near his home. Assistant teacher Natacha Steimer said her students were amazed. "It's far more interesting to hear a person your age tell about the volcano than to read in a book about a volcano," she said.

Life & Style

AP source: Jackson's will puts assets in trust

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's will gives guardianship over his children to the singer's mother and leaves all his assets in a trust fund, a person with knowledge of the document told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The word came just a day after the family said in court documents it believed the entertainer had died without a valid will and moved to take control over his estate.

The will was signed on July 7, 2002, and named as executors Jackson's longtime lawyer John Branca and John McClain, a music executive and a family friend, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the topic. The Jackson family and its lawyers are reviewing the document, the person said.

According to a statement given to CNN's "Larry King Live" on behalf of Branca and McClain, the two men are carrying out Jackson's wishes and "it is their sincere desire that Michael's affairs be handled with dignity and respect."

That designation complicates a petition by Jackson's mother Katherine to become the administrator of his lucrative, but debt-encumbered estate.

In documents filed in Superior Court on Monday, Jackson's parents say they believe their 50-year-old son died "intestate," or without a valid will.

Judge Mitchell Beckloff granted 79-year-old Katherine Jackson temporary guardianship of his three children, who range in age from 7 to 12.

He also gave her control over some of her son's personal property that is now in the hands of an unnamed third party. But the judge did not immediately rule on her requests to take charge of the children's and Jackson's estates.

Experts said the personal bankruptcy of Jackson's parents in 1999 could work against Katherine taking control of the estate.

Court documents show Katherine and Joe Jackson filed for Chapter 7 and listed nearly \$24 million in debts that included court judgments, auto loans and credit cards. The only valuable asset listed was a house in Las Vegas then valued at \$290,000. The bankruptcy was terminated in March 2007, but the documents gave no further details.

"I think it would be a negative factor but not necessarily a disqualifier," said Beth Kaufman, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney specializing in estate tax issues. "It could indicate that she is not capable of sound financial management."

Jackson was recently in shaky financial health. In the most detailed account yet of the singer's tangled financial empire, documents obtained by The Associated Press show Jackson claimed to have a net worth of \$236.6 million as of March 31, 2007.

Since that time both Jackson's debts

and assets grew substantially—he refinanced loans later that year that increased his debt load by tens of millions of dollars, but the Sony/ATV Music Publishing joint venture also spent hundreds of millions acquiring new songs.

Jackson's health also was a concern in his final days. A nutritionist who was working with the singer as he prepared his comeback bid said Jackson was

based on speculation over a possible memorial at Neverland, but Jackson's family had yet to reach out to them for assistance with any kind of memorial.

"We have not been contacted by any member of the family or any representative of the family, talking about or requesting any kind of event," he said.

Neverland is located in the rolling hills of central California's wine country, about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles. A public funeral there on a busy holiday weekend could bring the rural area's roads to a standstill.

Officials from the local board of supervisors, the county executive and law enforcement met Tuesday to discuss the possibility of restricting parking along parts of Figueroa Mountain Road, which runs past Neverland.



In this handout photo provided by AEG, pop star Michael Jackson rehearses at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

so distraught over persistent insomnia in recent months that he pleaded for a powerful sedative despite warnings it could be harmful.

Cherilyn Lee, a registered nurse whose specialty includes nutritional counseling, also said she got a frantic phone call from Jackson four days before his death that made her fear that he somehow obtained Diprivan or another drug to induce sleep.

Meanwhile, Sheriff's Lt. Butch Arnoldi said authorities met Tuesday

County Executive William Boyer said the meeting was to prepare in case a public event was staged at the ranch, which would overwhelm the two-lane narrow road with media and fans. He said he was not in contact with the family and was not aware of their wishes.

California Highway Patrol spokesman Rick Quintero said the CHP had not received a request for a motorcade. "They would definitely need to notify us because it's going to impact the motoring public," Quintero said.

AP: Jackson said net worth \$236M in 2007

NEW YORK (AP)—It's one of the biggest mysteries in the Michael Jackson saga: How much was the lavish-spending, massively debt-ridden pop icon really worth? In the most detailed account yet of the singer's tangled financial empire, documents obtained by The Associated Press show Jackson claimed to have a net worth of \$236.6 million as of March 31, 2007.

But less than \$700,000 of that amount was in cash—a relatively paltry sum given his opulent lifestyle, prodigious borrowing and seven-figure shopping sprees.

The dollar amounts, which previously consisted of estimates, are crucial because Jackson's estate is expected to become the focus of a legal battle between the singer's family and creditors.

The revelation came Tuesday as Jackson's family reversed itself and said the singer did in fact have a will—complicating a bid by Jackson's mother to take control of her son's finances.

Jackson had \$567.6 million in assets, including his Neverland Ranch and his share of the Sony/ATV Music Publishing catalog, which includes the rights to songs by the Beatles, according to a statement of financial condition prepared by Washington, D.C.-based accounting firm Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio & Associates.

The report was prepared at a time when Jackson had large sums of debt coming due that had to be refinanced. The financial statement, which is not as thorough as an audit, was based in large part on estimates provided by Jackson's advisers that the accounting firm said it could not verify.

In the documents, the firm also said it omitted the amount Jackson owed in income taxes.

The documents do not show how much money he had coming in that year or how much he was spending, which makes it hard to estimate just how cash-poor he was. Still, the statement paints a picture of Jackson's tangled finances and the mountain of debt he left behind.

The five-page report says Jackson had debts of \$331 million. The singer had just \$668,215 in cash, according to the report.

The accounting firm did not return calls seeking comment.

The report puts a net value on Jackson's 50 percent stake in the Sony/ATV Music Publishing catalog—his most prized asset—at \$390.6 million. The 750,000-song catalog includes music by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Neil Diamond, Lady Gaga and the Jonas Brothers.

A separate document obtained by the AP details Jackson's dealings with Sony Music Entertainment Inc., which owns the other half of Sony/ATV. Jackson was guaranteed a cash distribution of \$11 million a year from the venture through September 2011, according to the May 25, 2007, document that was signed by the pop star.

The document also detailed Sony's ability to buy an unspecified percentage of Jackson's remaining share in Sony/ATV.

It said Sony agreed to guarantee loans made to Jackson through September 2011 and to help him refinance his debts. Sony also agreed to advance Jackson money to help pay the interest to his main creditor at the time, Fortress Investment Group LLC, to avoid defaulting. Barclays Bank PLC took over the Fortress loan, which is now around \$315 million, in December 2007.

The documents also show that Jackson gave his approval for Sony/ATV to use up to \$400 million to purchase the 125,000-song Famous Music LLC catalog from Viacom Inc., which holds such songs as "Footloose" and "The Real Slim Shady" by Eminem. The deal was announced a week later.

A Sony/ATV spokesman declined to comment.

Another of Jackson's prized possessions, his Neverland Ranch, is valued at \$33 million, according to the accounting firm's report. He also had \$20 million worth of cars, antiques, collectibles and other property.

It was unclear whether Jackson could be buried at the ranch. California Funeral Directors Association executive director Bob Achermann said state law would prohibit Jackson's uncremated remains from being interred at Neverland.

The state's health and safety code makes interring any uncremated remains outside of a cemetery a misdemeanor, he said. Cremated remains can be kept in a home or private mausoleum outside a cemetery, he said.

At once a symbol of Jackson's success and excesses, Neverland became the site of a makeshift memorial after his death Thursday. Scores of fans have streamed past the gated entrance to leave handwritten notes, photographs, balloons and flowers.

He was 29 and at the height of his popularity when he bought the ranch, naming it after the mythical land of Peter Pan, where boys never grow up. There, he surrounded himself with animals, rides and children.

Jackson fled the ranch—and the country—after his acquittal on charges that he molested a 13-year-old cancer survivor in 2003 at the estate after getting him drunk.

On the other coast, meanwhile, Jackson fans converged on New York City's famed Apollo Theater on Tuesday for a public tribute to the performer, clutching photographs, cheering and dancing to his music at the legendary venue that launched the one-time child star's career.

The Rev. Al Sharpton gave a rousing speech praising the pop star to hundreds of fans who crammed into the theater as others waited in line outside to pay their respects.

"Michael made young men and women all over the world imitate us," Sharpton said. "Before Michael, we were limited and ghettoized. But Michael put on a colorful military outfit, he pulled his pants up, he put on the one glove, and he smashed the barriers of segregated music."

Nutritionist: Michael Jackson begged for sedative

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson was so distraught over persistent insomnia in recent months that he pleaded for a powerful sedative despite warnings it could be harmful, says a nutritionist who was working with the singer as he prepared his comeback bid.

Cherilyn Lee, a registered nurse whose specialty includes nutritional counseling, said Tuesday that she repeatedly rejected his demands for the drug, Diprivan, which is given intravenously.

But a frantic phone call she received from Jackson four days before his death made her fear that he somehow obtained Diprivan or another drug to induce sleep, Lee said.

While in Florida on June 21, Lee was contacted by a member of Jackson's staff.

"He called and was very frantic and said, 'Michael needs to see you right away.' I said, 'What's wrong?' And I could hear Michael in the background ...

"One side of my body is hot, it's hot, and one side of my body is cold. It's very cold," Lee said.

"I said, 'Tell him he needs to go to the hospital. I don't know what's going on, but he needs to go to the hospital ... right away.'"

"At that point I knew that somebody had given him something that hit the central nervous system," she said, adding, "He was in trouble Sunday and he was crying out."

Jackson did not go to the hospital. He died June 25 after suffering cardiac arrest, his family said. Autopsies have been conducted, but an official cause of death is not expected for several weeks.

"I don't know what happened there. The only thing I can say is he was adamant about this drug," Lee said.

Following Jackson's death, allegations emerged that the 50-year-old King of Pop had been consuming painkillers, sedatives and antidepressants. But Lee said she encountered a man tortured by sleep deprivation and one who expressed opposition to recreational drug use.

"He wasn't looking to get high or feel good and sedated from drugs," she said. "This was a person who was not on drugs. This was a person who was seeking help, desperately, to get some sleep, to get some rest."

Jackson was rehearsing hard for what would have been his big comeback—his "This Is It" tour, a series of performances that would have strained his aging dancer's body. Also, pain had been a part of his life since 1984, when his scalp was severely burned during a Pepsi commercial shoot.

Several months ago, Jack-

abuse cases have involved anesthesiologists, nurses and other hospital staffers with easy access to the drug, Zacny said.

In recent months, Lee said, Jackson waved away her warnings about it.

"I had an IV and when it hit my vein, I was sleeping. That's what I want," Lee said Jackson told her.

"I said, 'Michael, the only problem with you taking this medication'—and I had a chill in my body and tears in my eyes three months ago—the only problem is you're going to take it and you're not going to wake up," she recalled.

According to Lee, Jackson said it had been given to him before but he didn't want to discuss the circumstances or identify the doctor involved.

The singer also drew his own distinctions when it came to drugs versus prescription medicine.

"He said, 'I don't like drugs. I don't want any

drugs. My doctor told me this is a safe medicine,'" Lee said. The next day, she said she brought a copy of the Physician's Desk Reference to show him the section on Diprivan.

"He said, 'No, my doctor said it's safe. It works quick and it's safe as long as somebody's here to monitor me and wake me up. It's going to be OK,'" Lee said. She said he did not give the doctor's name.

Lee said at one point, she spent the night with Jackson to monitor him while he slept. She said she gave him herbal remedies and stayed in a corner chair in his vast bedroom.

After he settled in bed, Lee told Jackson to turn down the lights and music—he had classical music playing in the house. "He also had a computer on the bed because he loved Walt Disney," she said. "He was watching Donald Duck and it was ongoing. I said, 'Maybe if we put on softer music,' and he said, 'No, this is how I go to sleep.'"

Three and a half hours later, Jackson jumped up and looked at Lee, eyes wide open, according to Lee. "This is what happens to me," she quoted him as saying. "All I want is to be able to sleep. I want to be able to sleep eight hours. I know I'll feel better the next day."



Nutritionist Cherilyn Lee, who worked with Michael Jackson, is shown during an interview in Inglewood, Calif., Monday, June 29, 2009.

son had begun badgering Lee about Diprivan, also known as Propofol, Lee said. It is an intravenous anesthetic drug widely used in operating rooms to induce unconsciousness. It is generally given through an IV needle in the hand.

Patients given Propofol take less time to regain consciousness than those administered certain other drugs, and they report waking up more clear-headed and refreshed, said University of Chicago psychopharmacologist James Zacny.

It has also been implicated in drug abuse, with people using it to "chill out" or to commit suicide, Zacny said. Accidental deaths linked to abuse have been reported. The powerful drug has a very narrow therapeutic window, meaning it doesn't take doses much larger than the medically recommended amount to stop a person's breathing.

An overdose that stops breathing can result in a build-up of carbon dioxide, causing the heart to beat erratically and leading to cardiac arrest, said Dr. John Dombrowski, a member of the board of directors of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

Because it is given intravenously and is not the kind of prescription drug typically available from pharmacists,

Death and Funeral Announcement

†VICTORIA SANTOS
PANGELINAN ALCANTARA

Also Known As "Baling - Talu"

November 27, 1957 - June 25, 2009

In her New Life, she now joins her:

PARENTS : †Joaquin C. Pangelinan
†Francisca S. Pangelinan

Survived by:

HUSBAND : Alfredo E. Alcantara
Former HUSBAND : Epecidio P. Mamaril

CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN:

Marty S. Pangelinan & Josie : (Marty Jr., Angel, William, Cathleen, Kimberly)

Vedalema S. Valencia & Bernard : (Velmarie, Vernadel, Veralynn)

Imelda M. Quitugua & Daniel Jr. : (Jacob, Noah , Kai'leah)

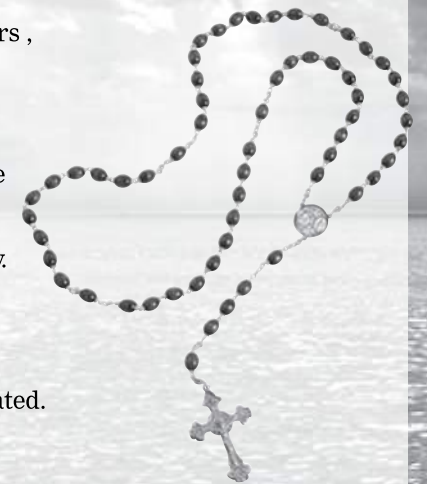
Juena M. Pangelinan & Glenn : (Lamont, Gabriel, Glenn, Ayh'dan)

She will also be missed by her brothers , sisters , in-laws and all other relatives and friends.

Mass of intention is being offered nightly at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church, Kagman. On Friday, July 3, 2009, her remains will leave Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00am and will be escorted to Santa Soledad Church for Responso Service and Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment follows immediately at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens, Kagman.

Your presence and prayers are much appreciated.

The Family



Joint Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late



Guadalupe
Pangelinan
Tenorio

10th Year



Blas
Pangelinan
Tenorio

32nd Year



humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Tenth and Thirty-second Death Anniversaries of our loved ones.

Daily Mass if offered at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church beginning June 28, 2009.

On the final day, Monday, July 6, 2009, the Eucharistic celebration will be at 6:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Dankulo Na Si Yui'us Ma'ase.

THE FAMILY

Fans gather for Apollo Theater's Jackson memorial

NEW YORK (AP)—Thousands of Michael Jackson fans gave the late pop star a raucous yet respectful send-off during six hours of public memorial services celebrating his life and music at Harlem's Apollo Theater.

Some 600 fans crowded into the Apollo Theater for each of the services that began shortly after 2 p.m. Tuesday. The last crowd of fans were in high spirits despite standing in line for hours in the rain.

Apollo historian Billy Mitchell welcomed them by asking, "Who are we here for, family?" The response was a deafening roar: "Michael!"

At the final tribute service, Mitchell told fans: "I don't think we're ever going to get Michael Jackson out of our system. And we shouldn't."

The crowd of fans waved white



Fans sing and dance to the music of Michael Jackson during a tribute to the late singer at Harlem's Apollo theatre Tuesday, June 30, 2009 in New York.

Wonder pays tribute to Jackson

MONTREAL (AP)—Stevie Wonder tinkered with the words of one of his biggest hits on Tuesday to honor Michael Jackson at Montreal's international jazz festival.

Wonder said the pop icon should be remembered for his musical greatness and not the darker twists of his life. He was clearly moved when talking about his old friend, and his voice broke several times.

Wonder made the comments at a news conference before a massive outdoor concert Tuesday to kick off Montreal's 30th annual international jazz festival.

Wonder sat down at a piano and delivered a rendition of "I Just Called To Say I Love You."

Wonder crooned, his voice wavering slightly as he slowed down the song's tempo and brought tears to some eyes in the room.

"We're all here and we'll never show how much we care," he sang. "By playing and buying your music to show your family we mean it from the bottom of our hearts. Sure, we mean it from the bottom of our hearts."

Wonder, 59, described Jackson as "someone very, very special to the world, his family and his friends."



Wonder

flags with Jackson's image printed on them, held up photographs of the star at different stages of his career and cheered and danced to his many hits, including "Thriller," and "Billie Jean."

A video tribute resembled home movies, starting with Jackson's cherubic childhood pictures and morphing into clips from his videos.

Reflections of disco light patterns swirled over the crystal chandelier anchored in the center of the landmark theater's plaster ceiling.

A black fedora with a white glove draped across its brim sat on a lone stool on the theater's stage, flanked by arrangements of white lilies.

At one of the services, the Rev. Al Sharpton told fans: "Michael

made young men and women all over the world imitate us."

Sharpton led the crowd in a moment of silence at 5:26 p.m., the time East Coast fans learned of Jackson's death.

Film director Spike Lee joined Sharpton on stage and urged the crowd to remember Jackson's accomplishments and not what he characterized as past negative news coverage.

"Let's not wallow in the negativity that they're trying to drag us down into. We're not having it," Lee said. "It's all about the love."

"He knew he was loved, but he didn't know he was this loved," said Rosiland Sargent, 59, of West Orange, N.J.

At the end of each tribute, fans placed their gifts on the stage. They included small stuffed teddy bears, balloons, homemade posters, a hand-knitted baby blanket and letters, including one addressed to "The Man who moved like no other."

Fans began assembling at the Apollo soon after Jackson died Thursday in Los Angeles. His ties to the theater go back to 1967, when The Jackson 5 won the Apollo's Amateur Night contest.

Jackson last appeared at the Apollo in 2002, invited by former President Bill Clinton for a Democratic National Committee fundraiser.

Promoter: Michael Jackson tribute shows likely

LONDON (AP)—The promoter who booked Michael Jackson for a sold-out comeback tour said Tuesday that footage of the singer's rehearsals may be released in the future, and that an all-star tribute show based on his canceled concerts is likely to take place.

A tribute featuring members of Jackson's family, and other world music stars, would likely use dance routines, sets and costumes created for the singer's scrapped tour, Randy Phillips, chief executive of promoter AEG Live, told Britain's Sky News.

Phillips described Jackson

as a close friend and said the singer had been excited about the upcoming concerts—confiding to him the day before his death that he felt ready for his 50 sold-out performances at London's O2 arena.

The promoter said he spoke with Jackson after a rehearsal June 24. "He gave me a hug and he whispered into my ear 'Now I know I can do this,'" he said.

Phillips denied claims that Jackson was daunted by the upcoming concerts, and likely too frail to perform. "We have, and we may at some point release, some footage of him in rehears-

al that would totally refute that," Phillips said.

He said he believes Jackson's comeback would have been one of the best arena shows ever staged.

"At some point the world needs to see this production, and I imagine if we could do it, it would be done as a tribute, with the family—with the brothers performing and some of the sisters—but also the stars who loved Michael and were influenced by him," Phillips told the channel.

Phillips said detailed plans for the original show had been saved for a possible tribute concert.

Usher's wife says she was surprised by divorce

ATLANTA (AP)—The wife of R&B singer Usher was surprised when the entertainer filed for divorce earlier this month and claims the two were intimate less than a week before he moved to end the marriage, according to court documents.

Tameka Raymond, 38, disputes Usher's claims the couple have been separated since July 2008. She said in court documents filed Monday in Fulton County Superior Court that she "had every reason to believe

her marriage was intact" and that two were "intimately together as husband and wife as recently as June 6."

Usher, whose real name is Usher Raymond IV, filed for divorce June 12, claiming there is "no reasonable hope of reconciliation" and the marriage is "irretrievably broken." He is seeking joint custody of the couple's two sons, 1 1/2-year-old Usher Raymond V and 6-month-old Naviyd Ely Raymond.

Tameka Raymond has three

children from a previous marriage. She said through her divorce attorney, Randy Kessler, that she has been a faithful wife and loving mother during the marriage.

In Monday's filing, Tameka Raymond asked a judge to ensure that Usher continues to support his family while the divorce works its way through the courts, including paying her legal fees.

The couple married in August 2007 in a lavish ceremony.

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NOW SHOWING



Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs

Thursday 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah

Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

After the events of Ice Age: The Meltdown, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Scratt is still on the hunt to hold onto his beloved acorn, while finding a possible romance in a female sabre-toothed squirrel named Scratte. Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a house-cat and ponders the notion that he is becoming too laid-back.



Public Enemies

Thursday 1:25 4:20 7:05

Johnny Depp, Christian Bale

Crime Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

Based on author Bryan Burrough's ambitious tome Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-43, director Michael Mann's sprawling historical crime drama follows the efforts of top FBI agent Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale) in capturing notorious bank robber John Dillinger. A folk hero to the American public thanks to his penchant for robbing the banks that many people believed responsible for the Great Depression, charming bandit Dillinger (Johnny Depp).



My Sister's Keeper

Thursday 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin

Family Drama • Rated PG-13



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox

Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



BFF (Best Friends Forever)

Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:10

Sharon Cuneta, Ai Ai Delas Alas

Prehistoric Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG



The Proposal

Thursday 1:15 4:10 7:15

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds

Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13



Year One

Thursday 1:10 7:30

Jack Black, Michael Cera

Drama Comedy • Rated PG-13



Taking of Pelham 123

Thursday 4:15

Denzel Washington, John Travolta

Thriller • Rated R

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The casket of Farrah Fawcett arrives at the funeral services for the actress in Los Angeles, Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

Farrah Fawcett being remembered at LA funeral

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The life of “Charlie’s Angels” star Farrah Fawcett is being celebrated at a private funeral in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles.

Her longtime companion, Ryan O’Neal, was among pallbearers who accompanied the casket, covered in yellow and orange flowers, into the Roman Catholic cathedral Tuesday afternoon.

Fawcett’s friend Alana Stewart and “Charlie’s Angels” co-star Kate Jackson were among early arrivals before the hearse arrived, accompanied by 10 motorcycle officers.

Fans and news media are watching from across a street.

Fawcett died Thursday at age 62 after a public battle with cancer. O’Neal and Stewart were at her side.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP’s earlier story is below.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The life of “Charlie’s Angels” star Farrah Fawcett is being celebrated Tuesday at a private funeral held, fittingly, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Her longtime companion, Ryan O’Neal, and her friend, Alana Stewart, both wore black as they entered the service, which was closed to media and the public.

Fawcett died Thursday at age

62 after a public battle with cancer. O’Neal and Stewart were at her side.

“After a long and brave battle with cancer, our beloved Farrah has passed away,” O’Neal said in a statement last week. “Although this is an extremely difficult time for her family and friends, we take comfort in the beautiful times that we shared with Farrah over the years and the knowledge that her life brought joy to so many people around the world.”

Diagnosed with a rare cancer in 2006, Fawcett’s battle with the disease was documented in “Farrah’s Story,” which aired last month on NBC.

Stewart, a producer of the

documentary, said Fawcett was “much more than a friend; she was my sister.”

“Although I will miss her terribly, I know in my heart that she will always be there as that angel on the shoulder of everyone who loved her,” Stewart said in a statement.

Fawcett and O’Neal, 68, have a son, 24-year-old Redmond, who has been jailed since April 5 on drug charges.

Last week, a judge granted his request to attend Fawcett’s funeral. The order by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jane Godfrey allows Redmond O’Neal to be released for three hours and wear street clothes to attend the funeral.

LA schools chief fumes over ‘Bruno’ school photos

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The chief of the nation’s second-largest school district is fuming over comedian Sacha Baron Cohen’s magazine photo shoot with high school football players.

Los Angeles Superintendent Ramon Cortines isn’t amused by the GQ magazine photos shot at Birmingham High School that feature the “Borat” star in his new incarnation as gay Austrian fashionista “Bruno.”

The GQ cover story features

pictures of Baron Cohen wearing shoulder pads, tight red shorts, an athletic cup and little else as he poses with football players at the school in the San Fernando Valley.

Cortines says the district “allowed our students to be used.” He says the photos violate the district’s policy on use of the school’s name, and he has punished the principal and athletic director. Cortines would not provide details.



In this undated image released by GQ magazine, Sacha Baron Cohen, in character as the Austrian flamboyant fashionista, Bruno, center, poses with members of the Birmingham High School football team from Van Nuys, Calif.

AP



ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Complaints about concert tickets closes sites

CHICAGO (AP)—A Ticketmaster Entertainment Inc. subsidiary has reached an agreement with the Illinois Attorney General after complaints of overly high-priced tickets to Hannah Montana and Bruce Springsteen concerts. The state attorney general’s office announced Tuesday that it had discovered TicketsNow operated Web sites with domain names that misled customers to believe it was affiliated with the concerts’ event operators. Customers thought they were paying face-value prices but instead were paying higher resale prices. TicketsNow agreed to close such sites and not use ones that

practice similar tactics. Also, the resale tickets won’t be available until Ticketmaster begins selling face-value tickets. TicketsNow will pay \$50,000 the state general’s office for consumer fraud enforcement and education. In a statement, TicketsNow said the practices predate Ticketmaster’s acquisition of the company.

Josh Turner announces birth of his second son

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Josh Turner and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of a second son. The singer’s record label, MCA Nashville, on Tuesday announced the birth of Colby Lynch Turner. The baby was born Friday. The Turners are also parents to 2-year-

old Hampton. Turner says in a statement that he had been in the studio the past several weeks recording his fourth album and his producer jokingly told his wife she needed to wait until they finished the record to have the baby. Turner says they wrapped up the album at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jennifer went into labor after he got home and they were at the hospital by 10:30 p.m. that night. Turner, whose hits include “Long Black Train,” “Your Man” and “Firecracker,” calls it perfect timing.

Country singer Ray Price recovering after surgery

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A spokesman for Grammy-winning country musician Ray

Price says the singer is home in Texas recuperating after surgery to remove polyps from his colon. Price’s agent, Bobby Roberts, says Price was admitted to a hospital in his home state on June 22 for routine medical tests when a colonoscopy revealed a large number of polyps in the pre-cancerous stage. Roberts says the surgery was successfully completed the next day. He says the 83-year-old entertainer is alert and expects to be back on the road in a few weeks. Price began his career in the 1950s as a honky tonk singer with hits like “Crazy Arms” and “Heartaches by the Number.” Later, he moved in a pop direction with orchestration on hits such as “Danny Boy” and “For the Good Times.”

Courteous customers keep express lanes up to speed

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Your response to “Frustrated Shopper in Idaho” (April 5) made me very upset. I am a cashier in a local grocery store. I understand a shopper’s frustration when she/he gets in the express lane only to find someone with a full cart up ahead. But we cashiers are between a rock and a hard place. If we ask a customer to please go to another lane, the customer will get upset, tell us we’re rude and complain to the manager. If we say nothing to avoid upsetting that one customer, then the others waiting in line get angry.



Dear Abby

Customers need to be respectful and not assume they’re entitled to bring their fully loaded cart into the express lane. It’s not the cashier’s fault, and we do not need “more training”!

CHRISTY IN OHIO

DEAR CHRISTY: Mea culpa. I heard from a slew of angry cashiers across the country echoing similar sentiments. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a checker, and I’m frequently assigned to the express lane. I was trained very well and usually politely tell customers that it is a “10 items or less” line. However, it is beyond my control when the managers push them down my line to get them out of the store sooner, or when a manager tells me he/she is sending someone down with “a few extra things” without asking for my input. It is neither the customer’s fault nor mine. I try to enforce this rule, but not all customers are polite or willing to listen.

ANNOYED CHECKER

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A simple and effective solution to this problem would be to program the express lanes to accept no more than the posted limit for that lane, e.g., 10 items. If businesses can program their systems to accommodate senior discounts, bag rebates, double coupons, buy-one-get-one, etc., surely they can program an express lane limit.

VIRGINIA SHOPPER

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was a manager for 24 years at a national supermarket chain, and I can answer “Frustrated Shopper.” A cashier would not be fired for enforcing the rules, but because of a higher number of customer complaints. Supermarkets want friendly cashiers. It’s not the cashier’s job to enforce rules; that’s the manager’s job.

To risk losing customers by embarrassing them is not something most managers are willing to do. Think about it: Who’s spending more—the person with a few items or someone with a full cart?

FORMER MANAGER IN ORLANDO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a checker for a national grocery chain, and I’ll share with you a checker’s “wish list” for grocery shoppers:

1. If you’re shopping with a friend and have more than one order in the cart, please use the regular checkout line. While each order may be less than 15 items, two 10-item orders take more time than one large order, so please be considerate of others. They’re in a hurry, too.

2. If you’re buying liquor, have your ID, wallet, debit card, cash, etc. on your person, not out in your car.

3. If you have special bagging needs, please use the regular lines. The express lane is not the place for this type of special handling.

4. While you’re at the register, please stay off your cell phone. Checkers are people, too, and we may have questions and need your attention. Distracted customers slow us down.

In other words, treat the express lane (and the checker) the way you would like to be treated if you were in a hurry and the person who is standing behind you in line.

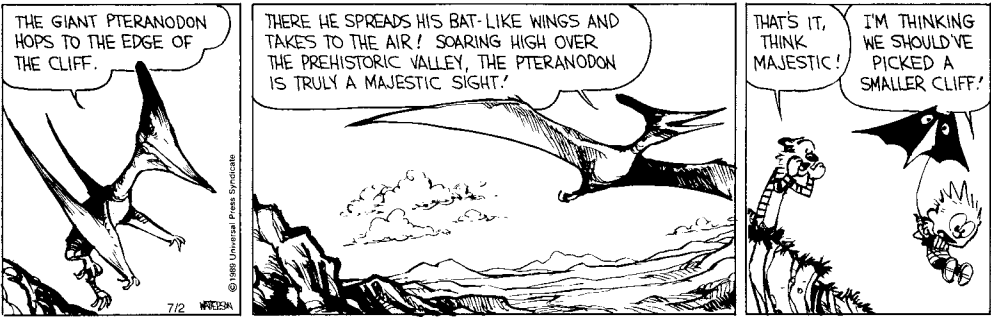
FRUSTRATED CHECKER IN THE USA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

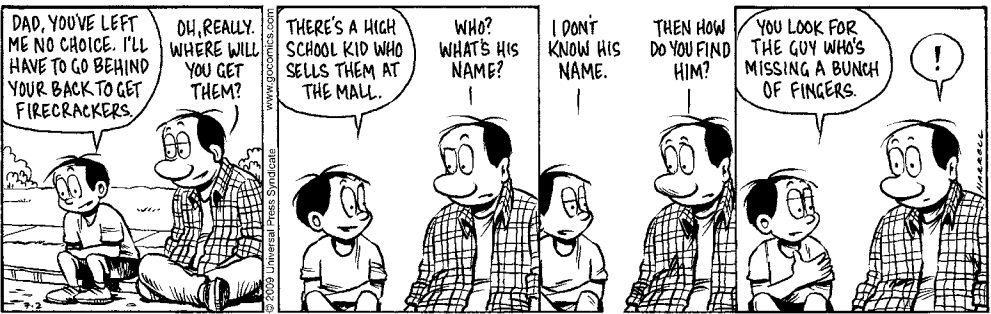
Calvin and Hobbes



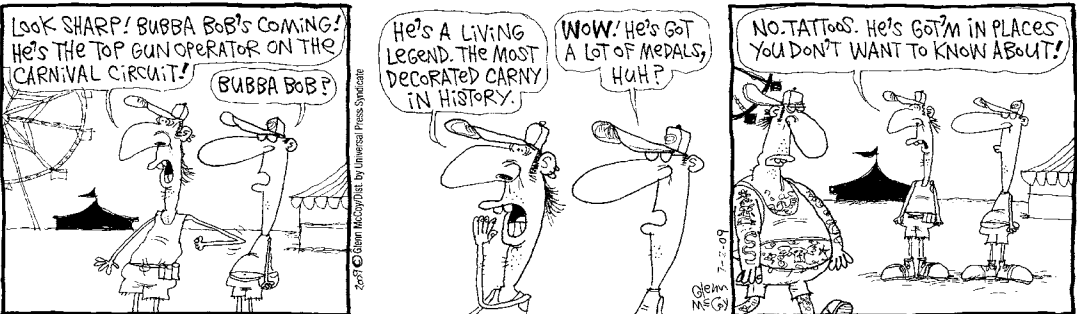
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Forbid-
den (Var.)

5 Actress
Thurman

8 Chaste

12 Unsigned
(Abbr.)

13 Persona-
grata
link

14 A single
time

15 Hexag-
onal state

16 Space-
craft
compart-
ment

17 Cicatrix

18 Long,
harsh
speech

20 Bar

22 With
feet
turned
inward

26 Froot —

29 Little
louse

30 Attempt

31 Partner in
crime

32 Addition-
ally

33 Actor
LaBeouf

DOWN

34 Midafter-
noon

35 Ostrich's
cousin

36 Enthu-
siasm,
plus

37 Fit
together

40 List-
ending
abbr.

41 Zurer of
"Angels &
Demons"

45 Quaker
pronoun

47 Space

49 Staffer

50 Saharan

51 Hearty
brew

52 Bridle
part

53 Gilligan's
home

54 Wire
measure

55 Hardly a
purebred

1 Lacking
slack

2 Con

3 Wild
porker

4 Blue
ingredient

5 Let off
the hook?

6 Cattle
call?

7 C-3P0,
for

8 Suggest,
as a
theory

9 Strip

10 Nipper's
co.

11 Always,
in verse

19 Insult

21 Pismire

23 Boredom

24 Green
land

25 Twosome

26 Set down

27 Medley

28 Salad
dressing

32 Blend

33 Weapon
of a
sort

35 Greek H

36 Tina of
"30 Rock"

38 Chopin
piece

39 Bouton-
niere
site

42 Stead

43 Tend
texts

44 Circus
shelter

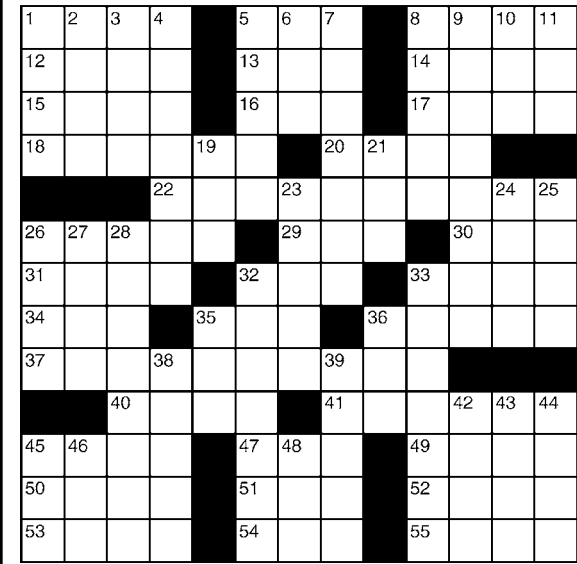
45 Skater
Babilonia

46 Storefront
sign
abbr.

48 — Baba

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Lindsay Lohan, 23; Michelle Branch, 26; Jose Canseco, 45; Richard Petty, 72

Happy Birthday: This is a year of preparation for the future. Travel, learning and teaching should be your intent. A little more socializing will pay off with the people you meet and the experiences you have. Children will play a greater role in your life and will shed light on the possibilities that exist. Your numbers are 11, 15, 23, 26, 34, 37, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work on relationships. It's working alongside others that will help you create a unique space to expand your skills and develop something you've always wanted to do. A home improvement project will interest someone you care for. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A stubborn position will create greater problems for you with someone you have an important connection with. Don't jeopardize a friendship by refusing to listen to an explanation being offered. Remain calm. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your friendly demeanor will help you find out information that might be kept from you otherwise. Use your skills to develop a better rapport with people who can help you get ahead. Keep your private affairs to yourself. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Ulterior motives are likely to catch you off-guard and leave you vulnerable to someone's scheme. Don't pay for others when you should be treating yourself to things that will enhance your looks, self-confidence or knowledge. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Financial difficulties are apparent, especially if you buy into someone else's scheme. Avoid buying luxury items or impulse purchases. Now is not the time to be generous with others or to offer donations to make an impression. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Accommodate the people you love and you will receive loyalty, love and respect in return. Expect something unusual to unfold that will alter the way you feel about someone you are close to. Let your thoughts be heard. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be foolish when it comes to money. Any offer that sounds too good to be true will be disappointing. Temptation can put you in the poorhouse, causing added stress and the need to take on additional work. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be questioning someone's loyalty, especially if he or she has done something out of character to make you suspicious. Before pointing an accusing finger, observe and get your facts straight. Uncertainty regarding love and partnerships must be resolved. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can do something that will impress your neighbors and friends as well as put a positive spin on what you do best. You can have a greater influence on others by being a participant. You'll have no trouble getting others interested in your ideas. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have to separate your personal feelings

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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from your professional dealings. If you let your emotions get the better of you, it will affect the way you do business. A past partner may cause you to make an unfortunate mistake. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't fall for someone trying to coerce you into buying into something that isn't really good for you. Be ready to counteract any offer being made with your own set of rules, regulations and price tags. A love relationship from your past may cause you trouble now. **

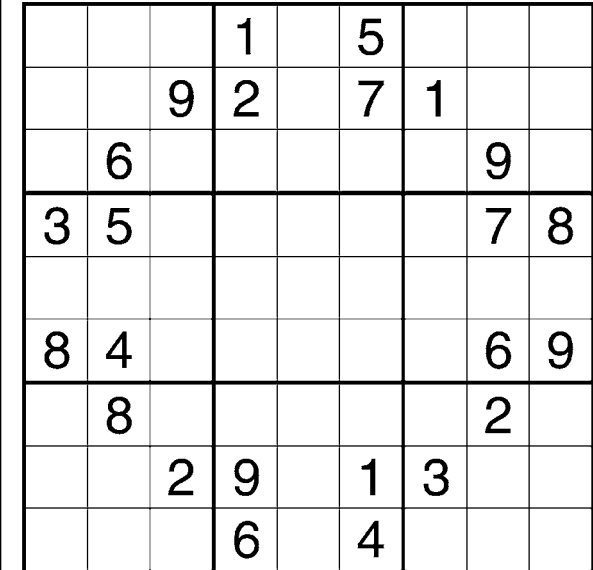
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be in a good position to manipulate a situation that means a lot to you. Focus on every move being made and prepare to meet demands above and beyond expectations. Motivation will be the key. *****

Birthday Baby: You are determined, dedicated and destined to do great things. You are engaging and persistent and have courage and strength. You are true to your friends, lovers and family.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/02

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	6	8	9	4	7	1	3	2
7	1	2	6	8	3	4	9	5
9	4	3	5	1	2	6	7	8
1	3	9	8	2	5	7	6	4
2	5	4	1	7	6	3	8	9
6	8	7	4	3	9	5	2	1
8	2	6	7	5	1	9	4	3
4	7	5	3	9	8	2	1	6
3	9	1	2	6	4	8	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/01

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEAUTIFUL ALASKA Solution: 9 letters

Y B R M C K I N L E Y S W S G
R R E A S T H G I L S E I S L
E H O A E E H I Z K A L N A A
N B C T V B R Z I T U O T A C
E O A I I E I E H K W S E L I
C T T N G R R E S N A B R U E
S A A A G E R P P O A C M S R
N N N I S R B E C N R I O N S
I I T T N E T P T H L T O I I
A C U U W R O E S A U E S N A
T A L E O R E R N A H G E E N
N L K L T K U E P O L S A P E
U K E A L O D R E V O M I C K
O U G A T O R D R I L L O F H
M E T Y E L L A V O L C A N O

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Aleutian, Bear, Beaver, Begich, Botanical, Chugach, Coastal, Denali, Eklutna, Fish, Glaciers, Grizzly, Kenai, Kulis, Lights, McKinley, Moose, Mountains, Mover, Native, Peninsula, Petroleum, Portage, Resorts, Salmon, Scenery, Skier, Slope, Snow, State, Talkeetna, Territory, Tordillo, Tours, Towns, Urban, Valley, Volcano, Weather, Winter

Yesterday's Answer: Strap

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4.99 (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate, Inc.). \$5.99 for the first book only. \$4.99 for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1158 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-8480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

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Looking for 2 or 3-Bedroom house with garage for long-term lease. Please call SK Community at 285-1654.

Drunk Driving

Over the limit.
Under arrest.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff,

vs.

LUIS A. SASAMOTO, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 01-0044

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on December 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 060 T 01, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Officials Cadastral Plat No. 060 T 00 dated October 12, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 91-083, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2009, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Courthouse in Tinian. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of June, 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE
Auctioneer

Dandan Tire Shop

USED TIRE

JOETEN DANDAN

X

235-7835

WHATZIT Solution: Cold blooded

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SAPPHIRE ENTERPRISES, INC., dba SAPPHIRE SECURITY AGENCY, Plaintiff,

-v-

JIN APPAREL, INC., Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0369

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on April 23, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Two electrical generators, model DMT 280 CA, and Onan Model 350 DFCC-USA.

The generators are currently situated at the residence of Lyn Carreira, located in Halle Street, As Lito, Saipan. The generators can be inspected by appointment; to make an appointment to inspect the generators, call 287-0903 or 235-4603. The generators will be sold in their current condition, at their current location, without any warranties whatsoever, all of which are expressly disclaimed.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 3, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the residence of Lyn Carreira, Halle Street, As Lito, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of June, 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F-0122
Attorney for Lydia Parks, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSEPH S. ROMOLOR and TOIKO K. ROMOLOR, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0359

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on June 10, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 001 G 57, as more particularly described in Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 03 the original of which was recorded 20 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-0510 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, Description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 17th, July, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, June 22, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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2 Williams sisters, 2 Russians reach semis



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Her 19th consecutive victory at the All England Club already wrapped up,

Venus Williams grabbed a seat and watched younger sister Serena win easily to reach the semifinals, too.

Afterward, Venus and Mom, Oracene Price, strolled out of Centre Court arm-in-arm, chatting and laughing.

Sure is fun to be a Williams at Wimbledon.

Five-time champion Venus beat No. 11-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-1, 6-2, before two-time champion Serena defeated No. 8 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-3, a pair of overwhelming performances Tuesday that moved the siblings closer to another all-in-the-family final at Wimbledon.

"They are both playing super-well. They're playing 'The Williams Way,'" their father, Richard Williams, said. "And when you're playing 'The Williams Way,' it's very difficult for anyone to touch you."

Particularly at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, where a Williams has won seven of the past nine championships.

If No. 3 Venus gets by No. 1 Dinara Safina of Russia in Thursday's semifinals, and No. 2 Serena eliminates No. 4 Elena Dementieva of Russia, the siblings would meet Saturday in their second consecutive final at the All England Club and fourth overall.

It also would be the eighth all-Williams Grand Slam championship match; Serena leads 5-2.

"I would love it to be a Williams final," Venus said, "and so would she."

They are competitors, of course, but also form a team in many ways: The sisters are sharing a house during this tournament, practice with each other and have reached the women's doubles quarterfinals together.

"We've got it all figured out at this point," Venus said.

She is trying to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93



Serena Williams of U.S. reacts as she defeats Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, in their women's singles quarterfinal match at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

to win three consecutive Wimbledon titles; Serena wants to add to the trophies she earned in 2002-03 by beating her sister in the finals.

At least one person has no doubt there will be a rematch Saturday.

"It will be. I'll go home because I can't watch," their dad said. "I think they both definitely make it to the final."

First things first. If the 19-year-old Azarenka and 20-year-old Radwanska represented up-and-coming opponents with little experience on the sport's grandest stages—neither has reached a Grand Slam semifinal—Safina and Dementieva are far more accustomed to playing significant matches.

On the other hand, they're not nearly as accustomed to winning them as the Williams sisters are, of course: Serena

owns 10 major titles, Venus seven; Safina and Dementieva have zero.

Safina, who lost in the final at three of the previous five Grand Slam events, overcame 15 double-faults and wore down 41st-ranked Sabine Lisicki of Germany 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1. Dementieva, twice a runner-up at major championships and a singles gold medalist at last year's Beijing Olympics, was never challenged by 43rd-ranked Francesca Schiavone of Italy and won their quarterfinal 6-2, 6-2.

Asked about her double-fault total, Safina replied with a smile: "15? I thought it was much more. Sometimes even I don't know what I'm doing with my serve."

As the younger sister of former No. 1 Marat Safin, who lost in the first round at what he vows was his last Wimble-

don, Safina knows about sibling success. But after losing the French Open final a few weeks ago, she acknowledged cracking under the pressure of trying to win her first major.

Looking ahead to facing Venus, against whom she is 1-2, Safina said, "I cannot go on court thinking I lost already. No, definitely, I think I have a chance there."

Dementieva also sounded a brave tone, despite accumulating more unforced errors (18) than winners (13).

"I just want to see how tough I can be out there against her," said Dementieva, who lost to Venus in last year's Wimbledon semifinals and now takes on Serena. "Just looking for some good fight."

Radwanska and Azarenka failed to

make things difficult for the Williams sisters, who were at their dominant best.

"Not perfect," Price said, "but pretty close." Radwanska was playing in her third Grand Slam quarterfinal, 27 fewer than Venus, and while she upset Maria Sharapova at the 2007 U.S. Open, a stunner of that magnitude never seemed a possibility Tuesday. Venus won the first five games and the last six, compiling a 29-6 edge in winners.

Pounding aces at up to 122 mph, Venus won 16 of 18 points on her serve in the first set on a steamy day, the temperature about 90 degrees and not a cloud overhead at Court 1.

"Her tennis is so powerful," Radwanska said. "Very hard to do anything."

It took all of 68 minutes, leaving Venus ample time to shower, change, do postmatch interviews and still make it into the guest box for Serena's match.

Azarenka hits the ball quite hard herself, letting out a grunt that sounds something like "Whoop!", but she couldn't keep up. She even felt compelled to clap after a couple of Serena's best strokes.

"She really showed the unbeatable Serena," Azarenka acknowledged.

Azarenka did break for a 3-2 lead in the second set, but Serena didn't let her win another game. When Serena smacked one last forehand winner, she jogged to the net, pumping her fists. Up in the stands, Venus stood and applauded.

"We definitely upped our level of game today," said Serena, who hit nine aces. "We had really tough opponents, so we had to."

On Thursday, two more opponents will try to slow a pair of sisters who began playing tennis twenty-something years ago in Compton, Calif., and have made the most famous grass courts in the world their personal playground.

One particular family will be hoping for an all-Williams final. One nation will be pulling for an all-Russian final.

Dementieva proposed a unique alternative, asking: "Can we play just two finals instead?"

Boozer, Okur stay with Utah Jazz



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Carlos Boozer and Mehmet Okur are both staying with the Utah Jazz next season.

About two hours after Boozer let the Jazz know he decided against opting out of the final year of his contract—which he once said he intended to do—Okur joined him Tuesday night.

The moves keep the Jazz lineup intact, but at a hefty price, as Boozer is scheduled to make \$12.7 million next season and Okur \$9 million.

Boozer told an ESPN.com reporter in December that he was definitely going to opt out of his contract, but backed off his original statement and said when the season ended he wanted to consider all of his options.

He chose not to chance an iffy free agent market for more money and possibly a long-term deal.

"We are excited that Carlos has decided to remain with the Jazz," general manager Kevin O'Connor said in a release. "We are hopeful he can continue to play at an All-Star level and will

have an injury-free season."

Boozer and Okur took until the final day to reach a decision, announcing their choice one day after Kyle Korver told the team he would be return for his guaranteed \$5.2 million.

While relieved to have the three players back, O'Connor is looking at a huge payroll that also includes \$16.2 million for forward Andrei Kirilenko—and could still get bigger.

Forward Paul Millsap is a restricted free agent who will draw interest in the next week, when teams can negotiate with players. The Jazz will have the right to match any other offers in order to keep him, but could easily top the luxury tax threshold if another team puts up a big contract.

When healthy, Boozer has been the Jazz's top scorer and rebounder and helped lead Utah to three straight playoff appearances. He's been an All-Star twice and was a member of last year's U.S. Olympic gold medal team, but injuries have taken him out for large chunks of three of his five seasons in Utah.

Boozer has averaged 19 points and

Pistons fire coach Michael Curry after 1 season

DETROIT (AP)—All or nothing seems to be the formula for coaching the Detroit Pistons. Bring home an NBA championship or hit the road.

First-year coach Michael Curry became the latest Pistons coach to get the ax as president for basketball operations Joe Dumars fired him Tuesday after watching his team stumble to a sub-.500 record and an embarrassing first-round exit from the playoffs.

But winning playoff games hasn't been enough to keep Pistons management happy. Just ask Flip Saunders.

Dumars fired Saunders last season after he led the team to the Eastern Conference finals in each of his three seasons. Curry was an assistant under Saunders for one season.

In 2005, the Pistons parted ways with Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown after he helped them win a title and almost repeat during his two years with the team. And Rick Carlisle was fired

after two years with the Pistons following a conference finals appearance in 2003 in his second season and NBA Coach of the Year honors in his first.

Curry and Dumars shared playing days together with Detroit. That may have helped Curry land the coaching job last year, but it wasn't enough to keep him in it.

The Pistons went 39-43 in 2008-09 and were swept in the postseason in four lopsided losses to the Cleveland Cavaliers after six straight conference finals appearances. Dumars said after that series that Curry would return, but changed his mind by Tuesday.

"This was a difficult decision to make," Dumars said in a statement. "I want to thank Michael for his hard work and dedication to the organization. However, at this time, I have decided to make a change."

Pistons spokesman Kevin Grigg said the timetable for naming a new coach was up in the air.

410 games with the Jazz. He was limited to 37 games last season, due largely to an injury that required surgery on his left knee in January.

"Obviously with the free agency period starting tomorrow (Wednesday), we don't know quite the speed of it," Grigg said.

Another ex-Pistons player and former Dumars teammate, Bill Laimbeer, stepped down in June as coach of the WNBA's Detroit Shock, saying he wanted a shot at coaching in the NBA. An e-mail message was left for Laimbeer seeking comment Tuesday.

The Pistons began the season with big hopes but couldn't recover from the loss of All-Star point guard Chauncey Billups in a November trade to Denver for Allen Iverson—a move intended to feature Iverson's creativity and create time for emerging guard Rodney Stuckey.

Instead, the Pistons fell apart. They won just three games in February and three in April, plummeting to the final spot in the Eastern Conference playoff seeding and a no-win matchup with LeBron James and the Cavs.

Markakis' 2-run double caps Orioles big comeback



BALTIMORE

(AP)—Nick Markakis hit a two-run double off Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon to complete the biggest comeback in Baltimore history, an 11-10 win Tuesday night.

Baltimore trailed 10-1 before scoring five runs in the seventh—three on a homer by pinch-hitter Oscar Salazar—and five in the eighth.

Boston had defeated the Orioles eight straight times, including five this season.

The biggest previous comeback in Orioles history was Sept. 2, 1956, when they rallied from an eight-run deficit at Boston.

Mark Hendrickson gave up one run in three innings and George Sherrill got three outs for his 17th save.

Takashi Saito took the loss and Papelbon was charged with his second blown save, one night after he tied Bob Stanley's career record for saves with Boston.

John Smoltz, making his second start for Boston, took a 9-1 lead into the bottom of the fifth. But a fierce storm forced the game to be stopped for 71 minutes. He allowed one run and three hits.

Rangers 9, Angels 5

At Arlington, Marlon Byrd homered twice to drive in five runs and Texas again had its way at home against Joe Saunders.

The Angels had their six-game winning streak snapped, but are still 10 games ahead of Texas.

Ian Kinsler, Nelson Cruz and David Murphy also went deep for Texas, which ended what had been one of the worst offensive months in team history with a season-high five home runs—four in 3 2-3 innings off Saunders.

Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus had four stolen bases, the first AL rookie to do that since 2000.

Twins 2, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Justin Morneau homered for the third straight game and Scott Baker labored through five tough innings to lift Minnesota.

Baker fought through a high pitch count to keep Minnesota in a tight game early and the Twins took advantage of another defensive miscue by the Royals for the go-ahead run in the sixth.

Morneau provided what little offense the Twins could muster against Brian Bannister, splashing a solo homer into the fountains in right-center in the fourth inning.

Baker fought through a 28-pitch first inning, giving up a run on Mike Jacobs' run-scoring flare single to center. The right-hander worked out of a one-out, bases-loaded jam in the fourth, getting Mitch Maier on a weak pop up and striking out Tony Pena Jr.

Joe Nathan worked a perfect ninth for his 15th straight save and 20th in 22 chances.

Bannister gave up six hits, two runs—one earned—with six strikeouts in seven innings.

Yankees 8, Mariners 5

At New York, Melky Cabrera hit a go-ahead double in the eighth inning and Mariano Rivera tossed out the first ball—and threw the final pitch—as New York won its sixth straight.

Alex Rodriguez hit his 565th career homer and Cabrera drove in three runs. The Yankees won their ninth in a row at home over Seattle, a streak dating to 2007.

Major league batting leader Ichiro



Baltimore Orioles' Brian Roberts (1) slides home to score the go-ahead run on a Nick Markakis double, next to Boston Red Sox catcher George Kattaras, right, during the eighth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 30, 2009, in Baltimore.

Suzuki got two hits and stole three bases for the Mariners.

After a 61-minute rain delay at the start, Rivera began the evening by delivering a ceremonial first pitch as the Yankees honored him for earning his 500th career save Sunday. Rivera pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save in 20 chances.

Cabrera lined an RBI double off Sean White (2-1) and Derek Jeter followed with a two-run single.

Brian Bruney (3-0) got the win despite giving up two runs in the eighth that made it 5-all. Kenji Johjima hit an RBI single and Russell Branyan tied it with a bases-loaded sacrifice fly.

White Sox 11, Indians 4, 6 innings

At Cleveland, Paul Konerko and Jermaine Dye drove in two runs apiece and Chicago chased Cleveland ace Cliff Lee in the fourth inning of a game called in the seventh inning because of rain.

Konerko hit a two-run homer in the first for Chicago, which has won four straight and 11 of 15 to move above .500 for the first time since May 2. The White Sox (39-38) haven't had a winning record since they were 12-11.

Gordon Beckham and Josh Fields also homered for Chicago.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, B.J. Upton, Carl Crawford and Willy Aybar hit solo homers as Tampa Bay won its seventh straight.

Matt Garza (6-5) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings, walked two and struck out three to win consecutive starts for the first time since April 30 and May 5.

J.P. Howell worked the ninth for his sixth save.

Upton hit the first pitch of the game from Scott Richmond (6-5) for his seventh homer. The Blue Jays tied it in the second when Scott Rolen singled to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 18 games and scored on a double-play grounder.

Crawford put the Rays in front to stay in the third with his eighth homer of the year.

Aybar made it 3-1 with a leadoff shot in the sixth, his seventh, giving the Rays a team-record 41 homers in June.

Tigers 5, Athletics 3

At Oakland, California, Placido Polanco

homered and drove in three runs for Detroit.

Ryan Raburn went 3 for 3 with a run-scoring single for the AL Central-leading Tigers, who have won nine of their last 12 games.

Mark Ellis hit a two-run homer off Detroit closer Fernando Rodney in the ninth, but the A's have lost six of seven.

Giants 6, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Randy Johnson won his third straight decision and 303rd of his career despite surrendering two home runs to Albert Pujols in San Francisco's victory over St. Louis.

St. Louis has lost three straight since acquiring Mark DeRosa, who is a quiet 0 for 9 thus far, and has dropped six of seven overall.

Johnson allowed three runs and four hits in 5 1-3 innings. All the hits he allowed were for extra bases with Ryan Ludwick adding a double and triple.

Pujols leads the major leagues with 30 homers and 77 RBIs after his third multihomer game in his last 10, his seventh this season and the 30th of his career.

Chris Carpenter lasted five innings and allowed six runs and 11 hits—one off his career high.

The Giants' four-run, five-hit fifth opened with three straight hits by Aaron Rowand, Randy Winn and Pablo Sandoval and was capped by Travis Ishikawa's RBI double for a 6-1 lead.

Rockies 3, Dodgers 9

At Los Angeles, Jason Marquis pitched a two-hitter to become the first 10-game winner in the National League, leading Colorado over Los Angeles 3-0.

Marquis had a two-run single and outpitched Chad Billingsley in a matchup of potential All-Stars. Brad Hawpe homered for the resurgent Rockies, who set a franchise record for wins in a month with 21.

Marquis (10-5) faced two batters more than the minimum and threw just 86 pitches in his third career shutout.

The complete game was his sixth in 214 career starts and second this season.

Billingsley (9-4) gave up three runs and five hits in 7 2-3 innings and tied a season high with 11 strikeouts.

Marquis hit a bases-loaded single for a 3-0 lead in the seventh.

Padres 4, Astros 3

At San Diego, David Eckstein drove in

the go-ahead run to cap a three-run rally in the seventh inning for the hosts.

Josh Banks (1-0) threw seven solid innings, allowing three runs and five hits in his first major league start of the season. He struck out four, walked one and hit a batter.

Heath Bell got the final four outs for his 22nd save in 23 chances.

Trailing 3-1, San Diego went ahead with three runs in the seventh off Chris Sampson.

Lance Berkman hit a two-run

homer and Mike Hampton pitched six strong innings after coming off the disabled list for the Astros.

Braves 5, Phillies 4, 10 innings

At Atlanta, Martin Prado singled in the winning run in the 10th inning to finish with a career-best four hits and four RBIs, helping Atlanta to its first home win over Philadelphia since 2007.

Gregor Blanco had three hits and scored twice for Atlanta, which went 0-9 against the Phillies at Turner Field last year.

Matt Diaz started the winning rally with a one-out single off Chan Ho Park (3-2). He moved to third on Blanco's single and Prado followed with a liner over left fielder John Mayberry Jr.

Peter Moylan (2-2) recorded two outs to get the win.

Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins was 0 for 5 in his return after being held out four straight games.

Brewers 6, Mets 3

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a three-run double and scored on Johan Santana's throwing error and Milwaukee extended New York's losing streak to a season-high five games.

Prince Fielder added a 452-foot solo homer and Mike Burns earned his first major league win for the NL Central leaders, who have won four of five.

Santana left after giving up Fielder's 20th homer to lead off the seventh and allowed nine hits, four walks and five earned runs.

Burns went 6 2-3 innings to get his first win in place of injured starter Dave Bush (triceps).

David Wright hit a two-run homer for the Mets and Fernando Martinez added his first career homer with two outs in the ninth off Todd Coffey.

Diamondbacks 6, Reds 2

At Cincinnati, Dan Haren held Cincinnati scoreless into the seventh inning and hit his first career homer as Arizona snapped its longest losing streak of the season.

The Diamondbacks had lost five straight and eight of nine.

Haren gave up a run and four hits in seven innings, lowering his ERA to 2.19, the best in the league. He hit a solo homer off Bronson Arroyo.

Miguel Montero hit a two-run homer off Arroyo in the sixth and Haren hit the next pitch into the first row of seats in left for a 6-0 lead.

Pirates 3, Cubs 0

At Pittsburgh, Ross Ohlendorf pitched seven innings and Freddy Sanchez scored from second base on a ball that bounced only a few feet from home plate in the fourth inning for Pittsburgh.

Sanchez went 3 for 3, reached base four times, and drove in two runs.

Ohlendorf (7-6) gave up four hits, struck out eight and walked none while limiting the Cubs' middle three hitters—Derrek Lee, Jake Fox and Micah Hoffpauir—to one single in nine at-bats.

Second opinion on Mets' Beltran the same

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The injury-riddled New York Mets got some good news Tuesday when a second examination of All-Star center fielder Carlos Beltran's bruised right knee also indicated surgery is not required.

The opinion from Dr. Richard Steadman in Vail, Colo., was the same as the Mets' medical staff. Beltran likely will be out through the All-Star break while waiting for the bruise to subside. He will be re-evaluated later this week and rest until he is pain free.

"Yesterday, we had a lot of questions as to whether there was something new or something else in there and the word we got from the second opinion was that, no it was pretty much what we knew it was," assistant general manager John Ricco said before New York's game at Milwaukee on Tuesday night. "Now it's just a matter of how quickly he's able to heal."

The Mets have been decimated by substantial injuries to Beltran, Carlos Delgado (hip surgery), Jose Reyes (calf, hamstring), Oliver Perez (right knee), John Maine (right shoulder)

and J.J. Putz (right elbow).

Ricco said Reyes was traveling to the team's facility in Port St. Lucie, Fla., on Tuesday to ramp up his workouts. Reyes has been on the DL for nearly six weeks after suffering a setback earlier in June.

"He's had some good days, so yes, we're optimistic in the fact that he has now gone down there where he can do some baseball activity," Ricco said. "That's a good sign and hopefully we'll keep having positive days and see him soon."

Ricco said they hadn't decided whether Reyes would play in any rehab games, and they hope he will return at or just after the All-Star break.

Perez is starting at Triple-A Buffalo later this week on a rehab assignment, and Ricco said Delgado remains on track to return by August.

"We just want to survive and then hope we've got reinforcements. We have a lot of things now that we think we can look forward to," manager Jerry Manuel said. "The real key is that we survive and that they have no setbacks, then we will be getting somewhere."

FIBA Oceania thanks volunteers, sponsors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FIBA Oceania credited the unsung heroes who made last month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament on Saipan a success.

"FIBA Oceania wishes to thank again the many volunteers who helped us stage the event, the sponsors and supporters

who financially contributed to the event, the government of the CNMI who helped in the facility upgrade, and especially the people of Saipan who made the visitors welcome and supported the event by their presence in the games," FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

FIBA Oceania, through the local organizing group Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands, recruited vol-

unteers mostly youths to help run the tournament's statistics, venue, and other logistics.

Douglas Dillay and D.J. Ngrongor were among those youth volunteers and were assigned at the tournament's main venue, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. They were tasked to wipe the floor to ensure the safety of the players and sometimes check on the locker rooms and water jugs.

"It's the job that others will

not do, as they may be ashamed of being called the mop boys, but we were not. We love what we have done, as it gave us a chance to get closer to the players and even help them by making sure the floor is not wet and is safe," said Dillay, who on several occasions lent his rag to a player needing to wipe his wet hands before taking free throws.

"We're not doing anything this summer so might as well

contribute something to the community. It feels great to be part of something successful, like this FIBA Oceania tournament," Ngrongor added.

Smith said with the help of the volunteers and the business and public sectors, participants in the FIBA caging enjoyed their brief stay on Saipan. The FIBA tournament ran from June 21 to 26.

"I can assure you the visiting players, coaches, and ref-

erees had an enjoyable time on Saipan and will take home fond memories from your country," Smith added.

The CNMI's hosting of the FIBA tournament drew support from gold sponsors IT&E, Shell Marianas, Tan Holdings, and the Joeten Charitable Foundation. Other tournament patrons include the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Saipan Legislative Delegation, the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, and the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Staff from the Division of Sports and Recreation and the Department of Public Works also helped in the tournament, as they took charge in repairing the Ada Gym.



FIBA Oceania staff and CNMI volunteers pose for a group photo after the closing ceremony for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Two volunteers wipe the floor during the New Caledonia-Australia gold medal game in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SONICS

From Page 28

nate the paint in the second half, making the team's first 10 points in that period. The rest of the Sonics crew played true to their supporting role to complete the series sweep.

Talalemoto and Norita were

still at the forefront of Rollers A's repeated comeback bids in the second half, but could not get the job done without support from the bench. Talalemoto and Norita had 20 points apiece and the second leading scorer for Rollers A, Lester Vertudez, tallied only eight. Deleon Guerrero, Matt Igitol, Jason Palacios, and David Diaz were the four others who scored

for Rollers A, but they posted only two points each.

Excluding Ecalnea and Jeon, the rest of the Sonics crew combined for 32 points against Rollers A's 14.

Sonics advanced to the finals after beating the Sixers in the semis. The eventual champions were undefeated in the regular season with their 4-0

record and were seeded first in the playoffs, while the Sixers finished fourth out of the five teams with their 1-3 slate.

Rollers A topped Sonics' sister team, Junior Sonics, in the other semis pairing. Rollers A was seeded second in the playoffs with its 3-1 record, while the Junior Sonics were ranked third win an even 2-2 mark.

Finals

Sonics 71 – Jeon 20, Ecalnea 17, Cadiang 10, Camacho 8, Villanueva 6, Salas 4, Sula 2, Oei 2, Dela Cruz 2.

Rollers 56 – Talalemoto 20, Norita 20, Vertudez 8, Deleon Guerrero 2, Igitol 2, Palacios 2, Diaz 2.

Scoring by halves: 44-28, 71-56.

HEO

From Page 28

on it. In the first set, I played my game and tried to play power tennis. He was hitting winners everywhere and I lost the set, 5-7," Heo said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Heo, who is ranked No. 1,255 in the world before joining the tournament in New Caledonia and previously had five Junior

ITF ranking points, swept the last two sets, 7-5, 6-2, to pull off a come-from-behind win and advance to the quarterfinals.

"In the second set, I changed my game plan to a slower game using lots of slices and loopers to put him off. He really didn't like it when it was very high and low since he hits very flat. By the third set, he was exhausted and I felt fine. I took the third easily," Heo added.

In the quarterfinals, Heo was

paired against Australia's Chris O'Connell and lost, 6-1, 6-0.

"I was really exhausted the next day after my nearly four-hour match. I was mentally and physically tired and Chris was playing really great. However, I wasn't too disappointed that I lost, as I focused on the next tournament and started training right away," said Heo.

The Marianas High School student is now in Fiji for another tournament. Heo was

pitted against Arman Abdollahi in the first round of the Air South Pacific Junior Championships last Monday, and won, 6-2, 6-1.

"I knew I could beat him, but I felt a lot of pressure before my match because it was one of those matches I had to win. I felt really nervous and tried to keep as much balls as I can. My game plan didn't work out very well, but my opponent made heaps of mistakes and I took the match

pretty easily," said Heo, who will be facing a New Zealand player in the next round.

"I will play Ari Davis from New Zealand. I played against him twice, but lost on both occasions due to injuries. Last time I had an ankle problem and in February I cramped when I was up, 6-3, 4-2 in the second set, and then lost the third set 6-0. I feel confident that I can win this time, I just have to play my game," Heo added.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

two super heavyweights.

Davis will be fighting out of Da Crew 671, Saures out of XXXTREME, Tedtaotao out of Team Lockdown, and San Nicolas out of Marianas Elite.

Other Saipan vs. Guam fights in the undercard are the following:

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Tony "Rush" Reyes vs. Tanapag Beach Badd Boiz/Team Zogai's Ryan Gardee in the 140-lb. division;

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Jun "Shockeraba" San Nicolas vs.

Marianas Elite's Martin Ayuyu in the 130-b. division;

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Thomas "The Saint" Calvo vs. Predator Combat Team's Nate "The Terrible" Flores in the 155-lb. division; and

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Shawn "The Ace" Mantanona vs. Team Zogai's Shane "Insane" Camacho

in the 180-lb. division.

Alvarez said he is also looking to pair four more Saipan fighters with Guam fighters in the following days.

The four local fighters that have signed up to see action in Trench Warz X are Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse (4 wins and 0 losses), Chris "No Luv"

Laayug (4-1), Slade "The Rage" Adelbai (7 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw), and Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo (4-3).

Tickets for Trench Warz X: Collision will go on sale soon. General admission costs \$25 and VIP is \$35. Alvarez said doors will open at 7pm with the fights starting at 8pm.

RANGERS

From Page 28

World Series qualifier and failed to play in the finals. Jesus Iguel claimed the ROY trophy on his brother's behalf.

Camacho was also in Jakarta and could not receive his trophy for most triples (3) scored.

Taisacan was present to take his home run (3) king award, while Craig Tenorio and Flores also made trips to the home plate to receive the Manager of the Year and Coach of the Year awards, respectively.

Dung Tenorio ruled the ERA division with his 1.23 average, while Alepuyo took the Catcher of the Year plum.

Yamada (infielder) and Celis (outfielder) went home with the most envied and especially crafted trophies given to the golden gloves awardees.

Other top individual performers in the league were the Tigers' Mike Muna (batting champion) and the Falcons' B.J. Sablan (RBI champion) and Thomas Joab (Pitcher of the Year).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	47	30	.610	—
New York	44	32	.579	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	44	35	.557	4
Toronto	41	38	.519	7
Baltimore	35	42	.455	12

Central Division

Detroit	43	34	.558	—
Minnesota	40	39	.506	4
Chicago	39	38	.506	4
Kansas City	33	43	.434	9 1/2
Cleveland	31	48	.392	13

West Division

Los Angeles	42	33	.560	—
Texas	41	35	.539	1 1/2
Seattle	39	37	.513	3 1/2
Oakland	32	44	.421	10 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	39	35	.527	—
Florida	40	39	.506	1 1/2
New York	37	39	.487	3
Atlanta	36	40	.474	4
Washington	22	53	.293	17 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	42	35	.545	—
St. Louis	41	38	.519	2
Cincinnati	37	38	.493	4
Chicago	36	38	.486	4 1/2
Houston	36	39	.480	5
Pittsburgh	36	41	.468	6

West Division

Los Angeles	49	29	.628	—
San Francisco	42	34	.553	6
Colorado	41	36	.532	7 1/2
San Diego	34	42	.447	14
Arizona	31	46	.403	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 0
Arizona 6, Cincinnati 2
Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 4, 10 innings
Florida 7, Washington 5, 7 innings
Milwaukee 6, N.Y. Mets 3
San Francisco 6, St. Louis 3
San Diego 4, Houston 3
Colorado 3, L.A. Dodgers 0
Baltimore 11, Boston 10
Chicago White Sox 11, Cleveland 4, 7 innings
N.Y. Yankees 8, Seattle 5
Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 1
Texas 9, L.A. Angels 5
Minnesota 2, Kansas City 1
Detroit 5, Oakland 3

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

UFO MASTERS STANDINGS

Cabalen	2	0
Boholanos	1	0
NMBA	1	1
Bayani	1	1
MAFEA	0	2
MDX	0	2
MFICPA	0	0

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

G4S	8	2
Fiesta	8	2
Advance	6	4
MBI	3	7
Shirley's	3	7
PTC	1	9

Shirley's ends regular season with streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Host Shirley's Coffee Shop notched back-to-back wins after concluding the regular season of the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League with a 103-73 rout of Advance X-Terminators last Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Shirley's came off an 86-75 triumph over Pacific Trading, Co. last Friday night and the victory over the X-Terminators gave the host its first winning streak in the six-team league. The win also improved Shirley's record to 3-7, putting them in a tie with Micronesian Brokers, Inc. However, MBI took the No. 4 seeding in the playoffs, as it beat Shirley's twice. The host is seeded No. 5 and will play MBI in the first round of the playoffs on July 6.

The loss was Advance's third in its last four games and the X-Terminators finished the regular season with a 6-4 slate. They will be paired against PTC (1-9) in the first round of the playoffs. Winners of in the first round will join G4S (8-2) and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (8-4) in the semifinals.

After his 42-point explosion in Shirley's 11-point win over PTC, Fradel Sedillo came out smoking anew against the X-Terminators. Sedillo fired 34 points, making 12 of them in the first quarter to give Shirley's an early double-digit lead, 22-12.

Sedillo added eight more points in the second period and his hot shooting rubbed off his teammates, who combined for 24 points. Shirley's outgunned Advance in the second canto, 32-17 to take a big 54-29 halftime lead.

Mike Olaitiman tried to bring Advance back into the game in the third period, but

Shirley's Fradel Sedillo pulls up for a jumper against Advance's Julian Daprosa during the last regular season game in the Shirley's caging last Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



he failed to draw support from his teammates. Olaitiman tallied 13 markers in the third but three of his teammates who made it into the scoreboard combined for only nine markers. Rocyl Ritual was the only other Advance player to knock down more than a field goal for the X-Terminators in the third canto.

Sedillo continued to anchor Shirley's attack and had his supporting crew keep their big lead at the end of the third period, 76-52.

Shirley's hotshot capped his game-long brilliance with an eight-point production in the fourth period, while Olaitiman finally gave up on his tough mission of lifting Advance to a come-from-behind win or at least a decent finish, as he nailed only four markers in

the playoff canto.

Besides Sedillo, Shirley's had four other players contributing double figures with Dindo Laxa drilling 18. Dennis Catindoy logged 16, while Jess Nidao and Angel Catungal chipped in 13 and 12, respectively.

Olaitiman paced Advance with 23 points, while Ritual and Julian Daprosa added 21 and 12 markers, respectively.

Shirley's 103 – Sedillo 34, Laxa 18, Catindoy 16, Nidao 13, Catungal 12, Drilon 5, Galaro 3, Merencilla 2.

Advance 73 – Olaitiman 23, Ritual 21, Daprosa 12, Relata 6, Adlawan 2, Mercurio 2, Capillan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 54-29, 76-52, 103-73.

Two in a row for Cabalen in masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Cabalen took the early lead in the masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League after topping MAFEA-Bank of Saipan, 80-63, last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

The victory was the second in a row for Cabalen, putting them in solo first place and one win ahead of Boholanos (1-0), NMBA (1-1), and Bayani (1-1).

MAFEA-Bank of Saipan dropped to a 0-2 record and joined MDX at the bottom of the team standings. Completing the seven-team field in the masters division is MFICPA, which has yet to play a single game in the league.

Burly forward Jessie Mina led Cabalen's second straight win, as he tallied 27 points. Mina was also the top-scorer in Cabalen's 79-75 debut triumph over MDX last week after drilling 24 markers.

Mina and Cabalen started slow and trailed, 16-18 at the end of the first period before rallying in the second quarter to seize control of the game.

Cabalen had six players teaming up in its second canto breakaway with Mina spearheading the surge, logging eight points. A depleted MAFEA crew

could not keep up with Cabalen's offensive firepower, as the former was held to seven points against the latter's 24 markers.

At halftime, Cabalen led, 40-25, but Edsel Delfin, Ed Yalung, and Boy Garcia kept MAFEA afloat in the third period. The trio combined for 21 of MAFEA's 26 points in the third period to cut the lead to eight, 51-59, entering the payoff canto.

Both teams slowed down in the fourth period, but Cabalen had the edge, as it had several players coming off the bench to keep the team in the lead. Only five players suited up for MAFEA and they ran out of steam after playing catch up in the third period. MAFEA scored only 12 points in the fourth period with Quemado and Joel Buniag making four points apiece and Yalung and Delfin nailing only two each.

The second game of the night featuring Bayani-Shirley's and Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Ebisuya was rained out in the third quarter with the former leading.

Cabalen 80 – Mina 27, Pacheco 15, Andales 10, Puno 6, Conti 5, Culala 5, Ramirez 4, Cadag 4, Fernandez 4, Alcantara 2.

MAFEA 63 – Yalung 20, Delfin 15, Buniag 11, Quemado 10, Yalung 7.

Scoring by quarters: 16-18, 40-25, 59-51, 80-63.

Ron forgoes RP training; will go straight to Japan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Veteran trail runner Ronald Villafria will forgo his training in the Philippines and will fly directly to Japan for the Mt. Fuji Marathon set on July 25.

Villafria said he opted not to fly home to his native Philippines because of fears he might contract H1N1 flu that will prevent him from taking part in the Mt. Fuji Marathon, formally known as the Fuji Tozan Race.

He was also supposed to participate in a couple of middle distance fun runs in Manila weeks prior to his trip to Japan, but now will have to make do with training on Saipan and Japan upon his arrival.

Villafria said aside from canceling his homecoming he also didn't take part in the 10th Turquoise Blue Triathlon last June 6 because of budget constraints.

The Coco Restaurant employee said the trip to Tinian would've easily cost him \$200, money that would now go to pay for the train ride from Tokyo to Mt. Fuji which is about \$150.

In lieu of the fun runs in Manila's suburbs and participation in the Tinian triathlon, Villafria the past several weeks took part in the 16th Thomas Picarro Memorial Run, training along the Saipan Beach Pathway, and twice-a-week trail runs up Mt. Tapochao.

His jaunt up Saipan's highest peak however has been interrupted because of the heavy downpour the island has been getting lately.

Another change from his itiner-



MARK RABAGO

Ronald Villafria crosses the finish line in last month's 16th Thomas Picarro Memorial Run.

ary last year is Villafria will not be training in Japan's Imperial Palace after arriving in Tokyo, as this time he will go directly to Mt. Fuji, situated at the border of Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures.

He said this will give him ample time to adjust to the cold weather and train at Mt. Fuji's foothills.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon is composed of two legs, a 15-kilometer race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top.

Villafria was one of only 6,000 participants who have been pre-screened to take part in the 2009 edition of the Fuji Mountain Race.

Pangilinan tops Saturday 8-ball

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Senen Pangilinan won his very first Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament after going undefeated last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

Pangilinan got out of the first round with a victory over Ghel Mark Cabrera. He was joined in the second round by Rolly Villanueva (beat Juancho Mendoza), Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu (over Victor S. Hocog), Luis Fajardo (over Roman Rodriguez), and Zheng Jian Qing, Mark Butac, R.J. Mascarinas, and Chester Hamoy—all via byes.

The second round then saw Pangilinan win over Villanueva, Zheng upset Espiritu, Fajardo get the better of Butac, and Mascarinas outplay Hamoy.

Pangilinan then secured a seat in the semifinals after taking out Zheng then sat back and watched Fajardo join him after he beat Mascarinas.

In the match for the first finals seat, Fajardo missed on his fourth shot after back-and-forth safeties by both players. Pangilinan then managed to run his four remaining balls including the all-important 8-ball for the win.

Zheng and Fajardo then prevailed following a series of elimination games



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senen Pangilinan is flanked by runners-up Luis Fajardo, left, and Zheng Jian Qing after winning his first Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament championship last Saturday.

with the former taking the second finals seat after an exciting match.

The second semis saw Fajardo run all his balls before missing on the 8-ball. Zheng also pocketed his assigned balls but also missed on the 8-ball, but not before making a safety shot that required Fajardo to use the rail.

Fajardo missed and Zheng managed to win by pocketing an easy shot on the 8-ball.

The finals saw Zheng continue his lucky run by pocketing his first five balls before missing.

Pangilinan retaliated by also sinking five balls in a row before misfiring on the sixth. Zheng pocketed his sixth ball but had no luck on positioning for his

seventh shot. Pangilinan didn't give Zheng any more chances as he proceeded to clean out his last three balls and the 8-ball for the championship.

The win earned Pangilinan \$75, while Zheng and Fajardo settled for the \$30 and \$15 runner-up purses.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is \$10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676.

2 Williams sisters, 2 Russians reach semis



Her 19th consecutive victory at the All England Club already wrapped up, Venus Williams grabbed a seat and watched younger sister Serena win easily to reach the semifinals, too. **24**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Shirley's ends regular season with streak

Host Shirley's Coffee Shop notched back-to-back wins after concluding the regular season of the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League with a 103-73 rout of Advance X-Terminators last Monday. **27**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sonics reign supreme in Division I

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Sonics swept the title series in Division I of the 2009 UBA Summer Youth Basketball League after whipping Rollers A in Game 2, 71-56, last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The Sonics won Game 1, 65-53, of the best-of-three championship series for 15-and-under players and foiled Rollers A's bid to extend the series. Dae Min Jeon and Tristan Ecalnea used their height and heft to get easy baskets inside. A deep bench also allowed the Sonics to sweep the short series.

Jeon top-scored for the Sonics with 20 points, while Ecalnea drilled in 17 markers.

Rollers A kept pace with the Sonics only in the first 10 minutes of the first half, as Savali Talalemoto and Jon Norita held their ground against Jeon and Ecalnea.

The Joe Diaz-coached Rollers A even took a 17-13 lead on Lawrence Deleon Guerrero's pair of free throws and four straight points from Talalemoto.

However, Jeon, Ecalnea, and the reliable Sonics bench had seen enough and worked their way back into the game, outscoring Rollers A in the last half of the first half, 31-11.

Ecalnea and Jeon combined for 12 points in that windup and five other Sonics contributed in the team's break-away to give coach Jesse Tudela a 44-28 halftime lead.

Jeon and Ecalnea continued to domi-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' John Paul Villanueva, pulls up for a floater against two Rollers A defenders during Game 2 of their best-of-three title series in the Division I of the UBA youth caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rangers dominate BSML awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

If the Rangers build a trophy case for their collection and display, it would have been half full by now just counting the bulk of awards they got from the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball.

On top of their champion and pennant trophies, the Rangers went home with the most individual trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2009 BSML season last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Leading the individual awardees for the Rangers were Pete Tomokane and Jesus Iguel, who were named most valuable players in the regular

season and in the best-of-five title series, respectively.

Tomokane notched one more individual award when he topped the doubles division, collecting eight in the regular season.

Juan Iguel, David Camacho, Ben Taisacan, Dung Tenorio, Craig Tenorio, John Flores, Pat Alepuyo, Shane Yamada, and Roy Celis were the other Rangers who received individual awards at the end of the 2009 BSML season.

Juan Iguel was named Rookie of the Year for helping the Rangers top the regular season with an 11-1 record. He was with the CNMI Big League All-Stars in Jakarta, Indonesia for the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Manager of the Year Craig Tenorio, left, and Coach of the Year John Flores of the Rangers show the trophies they won during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. Joining them is SML president Rose Igitol.

Saipan vs. Guam matchups in Trench Warz X



MARK RABAGO
Manny "The Enforcer" Chong, seen here in a file photo, will take on Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in Trench Warz X: Collision set for July 31 at the Saipan World Resort.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

As much as seven Saipan vs. Guam matches are in the fight card for Trench Warz X: Collision set for July 31 at the Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech president and promoter Cuki Alvarez said the highlight of the evening will be the main event pitting former PXC heavyweight champion Manny "The Enforcer" Chong against arguably Saipan's best heavyweight, Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial.

Alvarez said Chong has vowed to avenge his first round loss to the Marianas Elite fighter in December 2006 in Guam.

"It's a rematch you wouldn't want to miss," he said.

Other matches scheduled in the super fights are Saipan's "Kill" Bill Saures against Guam's Mike "Ogre" Davis in the big brawl and Saipan's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas against Guam's Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao in the semi main event between the

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Heo gains Junior ITF ranking points

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI netter Ji Hoon Heo earned five Junior ITF ranking points after competing in the Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Calédonie 2009 late last month.

Heo made it to the Round of 16 of both the singles and doubles events of the tournament played in Noumea from June 22 to 27.

The 17-year-old CNMI bet drew a bye in the first round and was paired against Japanese Reike Kajishita in the next round.

"He was a flat hitter and he would hit off any ball that had a lot of pace

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Ji Hoon Heo, seen here getting ready to serve in a tournament on Saipan this year, competed in the Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Calédonie 2009 in Noumea late last month and earned five Junior ITF ranking points.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

